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JOHN BULL

VOL. [illegible] JANUARY 3, 1925. TWOPENCE.

DRINK AND ENJOY LIPTON'S TEA

A 25/- GIFT TO OUR READERS see pages 26-27

A Strange Luncheon Party

by "A Gentleman With a Duster"

Thoughtful People

are able to avoid many of the troubles that beset the path of humanity. They are alive to the fact that a seemingly slight disorder, disregarded, may lead to a condition of serious disease. When the organs of digestion are not working aright, thoughtful people seek the aid of BEECHAM'S PILLS. They know that a judicious use of this excellent medicine works wonders and speedily restores the stomach, liver and bowels to healthy action. For such distressing ailments as biliousness, constipation, dizziness, flatulence, headache and other symptoms of dyspeptic trouble, thoughtful people recognise the value of

Take

Beecham's Pills

WORTH a GUINEA a BOX

THE SALE THAT ALL MEN WAIT FOR!

CURZONS Big Offer in made to measure Suits

~~£3-3-0~~ ~~£4-10-0~~ ~~£5-15-0~~

£2 - £3 - £4

Suits made in the above style and 12 other styles, any of which you can select from our fashion book.

SPECIAL 14 DAYS' SALE

ONCE a year, in January—and only once a year—CURZON'S great Sale for Men takes place. Thousands of men in all parts of the country look forward to it, so as to order their suits for the year. The great feature of Curzon's Annual Sale is that all the cloths offered are genuinely NEW goods—that is, they are not out-of-date, or old season's patterns, or job lines, but cloths that have been recently delivered from the Mills.

All the standard qualities of the Scotch, Yorkshire and West of England Woollen Mills.

GUARANTEE

Each garment is cut and made absolutely for each customer, and by means of our perfect self-measure form we undertake to fit you perfectly by post under our own and JOHN BULL'S Guarantee to refund your money in full if you are not more than satisfied.

You will, however, be MORE than pleased. The cloths comprise Fast Colour Blue Serges, Scotch, Yorkshire and West of England Tweeds, Cheviots, Grey Pinheads, Fancy Worsteds, Heather Mixtures, Black and Blue Vicunas, etc., etc.

And all these cloths are in ALL the three prices.

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The prices, however, are drastically "cut":

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For a £5 15 0 Suit you pay only £4

With this ADDED advantage:

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You know how much the ordinary firm charges for all these little items.

At CURZON'S Sale the £2, or £3, or £4 covers everything, and you get the

All the World knows It's Curzon's for Clothes.

FINEST VALUE in a MADE-TO-MEASURE Suit.

SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY.

Fill in the Coupon or write a letter or postcard, mentioning JOHN BULL, at once for the FREE patterns, which will be sent by return, together with the easy self-measure form and fashion book containing 12 different styles of suits, from any of which you can select the style you require.

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To CURZON BROS., Ltd. The Great London Measure Tailors.

35 to 37, New Bridge Str., Ludgate Circus, London, E.C. 4.

Please send me free of all charge and without obligation, your Sale Patterns of Suitings with self measure form and fashion book, and if I place an order I do so on your guarantee (backed by JOHN BULL) to refund my money in full if I am not more than satisfied.

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MONEY-MAKING Bargains for Shopkeepers and beginners.—Sell manufacturers' clearing lines and travellers' samples in General Drapery much below ordinary price. Big profit certain. Wholesale Catalogue free. — Wolfson's Warehouse, 48, Thomas Street, Manchester.

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KNITTERS wanted to work Golden Fleece Knitting Machines at home; guaranteed wage for output; experience not necessary. Send 1d. stamp for prospectus.—S. B. M. Co., Dept. 19B, 91, Clerkenwell Road, E.C.1.

LEARN Dutton's 24-hour Shorthand.—Only 6 rules and 220 characters.—Send stamp for first lesson.—Dutton's College, Desk J., Skegness.

PART-TIME AGENCY.—Splendid opportunity offered persons—in regular employment to sell Clothing, Boots, Drapery, etc. Cash or credit. Liberal com.—J. Holt (Dept. J.), 1, Paradise Lane, Blackburn.

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DO YOU ADVERTISE?—Your advertisement inserted in 50 Provincial or London and Suburban Newspapers, 7/10; 25 Country, 3/6, Covering Wales, 3/6, Many others. Prospectus free.—Central Press (Series Dept. 60), 190, Strand, London.

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NAPOLEON' COUGH CURE

has never failed. It is a miraculous and sure remedy for coughs, colds, chest, throat and lung troubles. For influenza and bronchitis it is priceless. It soothes as it heals, acting like magic upon children and adults. A genuine scientific product.

Sent free, 1/6 and 3/6. Send P.O., not stamps.

NAPP, Ltd., 3 & 4, Clement's Inn, LONDON, W.C.2.

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GOVERNMENT CLOTHING.—Bedford Cord Breeches, 11/9; Oilskin Suits, complete, 12/6; Oilskin Overcoats, 14/6; new waterproof Rubber Capes, 4/3; Army Bluchers, 13/6; all-wool Blankets, 4/6; Rubber Sheets, 3/6; fur-lined Gloves, 3/3 per pair. Send for free list, all carriage paid and guaranteed.—GARSON AND SONS, Rye, Sussex. Est. over 100 years.

CHINA for Households, Churches, Schools, Institutions, Caterers, at Factory Prices. 21 years' reputation. Catalogue free.—Century Pottery, Ltd., Dept. 120, Burslem, Staffs. Est. 1903.

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DOBBIE'S 1925 Catalogue and (Gardening) Guide, 136 pages, 194 illustrations, Free to all readers if this paper is mentioned.—Dobbie & Co., Ltd., Royal Seedsmen, Edinburgh.

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MASSAGE Experts wanted everywhere.—Enter this profession and earn 7/6 to £1/- per hour. Full particulars, specimen diploma free.—47, Smae Inst., Festing Grove, Portsmouth.

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WIRELESS Sets by easy payments. Loud Speakers, 'Phones, Amplifiers. Listen is while paying. Free lists from the makers.—Townshends, Ltd., Ernest Street, Birmingham.

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dull, dry, brittle, fading, lifeless, or falling out?

ALL are signs of malnutrition or starvation of the hair roots, caused by the blood becoming impoverished in the elements upon which the hair feeds. For you must remember that your hair is a living thing, part of your body, and like every other part of your body can only be nourished through the blood. At the base of every hair root is a minute blood vessel, and only through that blood vessel can the hair receive the food it needs.

If your blood becomes impoverished in the particular elements which make new hair, your hair is bound to be poor and lifeless, and the only way to restore it to health is to restore to the blood the hair-growing elements.

Two Thousand Doctors

have proved that in the wonderful new hair food Humagsolan lies the secret of real hair health. Its effects are simply marvellous. If your hair is falling out, Humagsolan will stop it almost at once. If it is dry and brittle, full of scurf and dandruff, fading or going grey, Humagsolan will work wonders. Even in cases of total baldness, Humagsolan will make new hair grow, unless the actual hair roots beneath the scalp have perished, which can, indeed, only be proved by a course of Humagsolan.

If your hair is perfect, an occasional bottle of Humagsolan is a good insurance, preserving its health and luxuriance in a wonderful fashion.

Just try a bottle of Humagsolan to-day. It is positively guaranteed not to grow hair elsewhere because the hair of the head is different in structure and is nourished differently. Humagsolan is absolutely safe to take. It contains no drugs or ingredients that could affect the digestion, while its effect on the blood and the system generally is decidedly beneficial. Ask any good chemist for a bottle to-day.

Send a postcard to the address below for a FREE copy of the 32-page illustrated Humagsolan Book, "The Care of the Hair." It contains much valuable, practical information.

Do not delay! Ask your chemist to-day for a bottle of

HU-MAG-SO-LAN

2,000 Doctors have proved that it does grow hair.

3/9, 6/9 & 12/6 per bottle.

At all good chemists, stores and high-class hairdressers', including Arding & Hobbs, Army & Navy Stores, Barkers, Boots, Briggs' Cash Chemists, D. H. Evans, all Faulkner's Station Saloons, Gamages, Harrods, Haymarket Stores, Lewis & Burrows, Morton's, Needhams, Squires, (all Branches), Parke's, Selfridges, Taylor's Drug Co., Ltd., Whiteleys, etc., or direct from

HUMAGSOLAN, Ltd., 160, Faraday House, Charing Cross Rd., London, W.C.2.

LADIES' Winter Coats, also Suits, Boots, Overcoats, Gramophones, Accordeons, Watches, Clocks, etc., on easy terms. Write for free price list.—Masters, Ltd., Rye.

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GILLETTE Old Blades wanted. Cleanable, 6d. doz. given, or covers only 2d. doz.—Diamond Edge, Ltd., 17, New Cut, S.E.1.

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ACCORDIONS, Jazz Instruments, Violins, Banjos, Mandolins. Catalogue free.—Douglas, 98, King's Chmbs., South St., London, E.C.2.

GRAMOPHONES 27/-, motors 9/-; accessories, Violins, Accordions, cheapest. 32-page list 2d. How to make Gramos.—Regentbull, 139, Old Street, London, E.C.1.

ENJOY your evenings at home with a "Pullotone" Gramophone. Save money by buying on the "Factory to Fireside" plan of cash or easy payments. Choose your model from new illustrated cat., sent POST FREE from the Cabinet Gramophone Co., Dept. J.B.14, 339, Gt. College Street, Camden Town, N.W.1.

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REAL HARRIS TWEED, all wool, handmade, now 8/- yard. Patts. post free.—Mrs. Morrison, Dept. J.B., Loverburgh, Harris, N.B.

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SPECIAL OFFER.—Talking Parrots with cages from 30/-. Singing Canaries, 15/-. 3 mths. trial.—List fr. Chapmans, 17, Tottenham Court Road, London.

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WORMS CURED.—Artlec Brand Worm Tablets are a Specialist's positive and permanent cure. They cure most violent cases by calmly destroying the very cause of the worm's existence. No fasting, no dieting, no interference with daily habits. Send 1/6 for generous supply or 1½d. stamp for Free Pamphlet.—Ridyard Tablet Co., 34-38, Codnor, Derby.

LIFE'S GREAT HANDICAP—ILL-HEALTH. Try ENERGOT. YOU LOSE Stomach Troubles, Worry, Nerves, Constipation, Rheumatism, Insomnia. GAIN a perfect brain in a perfect body. Money back if they fail. Month's course, 1/6.—Energot, 12, Bessborough Gardens, S.W.1.

STAMMERING.—I cured myself. You can cure yourself (or your child). Parties. free.—Frank Hughes (J.B.), Ltd., 7, Southampton Row, W.C.1.

BLUSHING, NERVOUSNESS.—A remarkable book on genuine cure sent privately, 3d.—Mr. Rivers (J.B.15), 40, Lamb's Conduit St., W.C.1.

HOW TO STOP SMOKING.—Genuine Remedy proved by testimonials.—Write, The Stanley Institute (JB), 21, Warwick Lane, E.C.4.

SEND for Valuable Book, "Everyday Ailments", containing over 100 pages, explaining how to cure with Herbal Remedies. Three penny stamps for post. — Hall's Hygiene Co., Ltd., J.B., Salford, Manchester.

RHEUMATISM, SCIATICA, LUMBAGO, etc.—A West London Doctor recently stated he had been free from pain since using SALZIUM, and he now recommends it in his practice. Sample and full particulars will be sent on receipt of name and address and 2d. for postage, etc., by Henry J. Smith (Chemists), Ltd., Stanley Rd., Acton, London, W.3.

WHY SUFFER ILL-HEALTH when Vita-Ore will make you fit? To prove it you are offered a month's supply—no benefit, no pay.—Write, Theo. Noel Co., Ltd. (Dept. 19), 29, Ludgate Hill, E.C.4.

IS YOUR HAIR POOR?—If so, ask your chemist for the Free 32-page Humagsolan Book on the Care of the Hair—it contains much valuable, practical information. Or write to Humagsolan, Ltd., 718, Charing Cross Road, W.C.2.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SIXTY-FOUR-PAGE BOOK about Herbs and how to use them, 2d. Send for one.—Trimnell, the Herbalist, Richmond Road, Cardiff.

DON'T spoil your evenings stitching up jags in clothes. "Mend-a-Tear" will see to all that in two minutes, with just a hot iron. Send 1½d. stamp for free sample.—Leicester Rubber Co., Ltd., 23, Granby Mills, Leicester.

KARAH (Kah-rar), Finest Herbal Smoking Mixture. Something quite new. Special process. Cool, sweet, lasting and economical. Free from nicotine. 4-oz. Tins, 1/6; 8-oz., 2/9; 16-oz., 5/4. Post free.—Karah Co., Collyweston, Stamford, Lincs.

WRITE for your Free Copy of the Midland Furniture Galleries' Book. To look through this book of beautiful illustrations and coloured plates will make you long to visit the three acres of Galleries and Showrooms. Write to-day to "The Midland Furnishing Galleries," 10-18, Southampton Row, London, W.C.1. Mention *John Bull*.

"SHAVEX" Revolutionises Shaving. No brush and no soap. Get a smooth and perfect shave in half the time. Free Sample on receipt of 2d. stamp.—Address, Dept. V.13, The Zee-kol Manufacturing Co., 40, Blenheim Road, London, N.19.

FREE INFORMATION on any particular points of interest about GAS will be sent post free if you write to the Secretary (J.B.), British Commercial Gas Association, 30, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1.

WINES BY POST.

WINES for Workers; genuine, pure, well matured, and cheap. Send for list.—S. Wright and Co., Walkern, Herts.

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THE foundations of good health and sound constitution are laid in childhood, and children who get plenty of fresh fruit will have good cause to bless their parents. Apples, Oranges, Pears and Grapes save the kiddies from all sorts of ailments in childhood, and are a safeguard against many ills in future years.

They won't get sluggish at their lessons or moody in their play if they eat oranges every day. And what is good for the youngsters' health is good for your own. You yourself will feel better, younger, happier, and altogether more fit if you eat more fruit. Don't get stodgy in middle age—

Eat More Fruit

AND KEEP FIT

Ask your fruiterer for the new book "Fruit and Health," price 3d.—80 pages containing valuable advice by a well-known medical man, and nearly 200 fruit recipes, etc. If unable to obtain a copy send us your fruiterer's name and address with 2d. in stamps and a copy will be sent you post free.

Issued by the Fruit Trades' Federations, Advertisement Dept., 10-13, New Bridge Street, London, E.C.4.

Give him a hot Supper

Turn the scraps of meat into a rich appetising stew with lots of *good* gravy, by using a little —

BISTO

for all Meat Dishes

In 2½d. and 7½d. packets also in larger cartons and tins.

B 19A

Meltis CHOCOLATE

Dessert: 4d., 8d. & 1/- (½-lb. net)
Creamy Milk: 4d., 8d. & 1/2 (½-lb. net)
Napolitains: 3d., 6d. & 1/-

This Little Chap Knows What's Good

Bermaline Bread suits him. He is quite willing to make a meal of it at any time, and it is the best food he can eat, for "Bermaline" has all those vital body-building properties which develop sturdy limbs and nourish vigorous young life.

Your baker will supply you with fresh "Bermaline" Bread daily.

For name of nearest "Bermaline" baker write to Montgomerie & Co., Ibrox, Glasgow.

"Bermaline" Bread

Be safe about your Everyday Milk Supply—insist on

NESTLÉ'S EVAPORATED MILK

"EVERYDAY" BRAND PREPARED IN ENGLAND.

Unsweetened, evaporated fresh milk for daily use. The purest and most economical. Delicious undiluted in place of dairy cream.

IT IS ALWAYS BEST TO BUY THE BEST.

Begin collecting the labels—£8,000 Cash Prizes. Ask your Grocer for details, or send postcard to NESTLE'S, LONDON, E.C.3.

Vol. XXXVII. No 970.
Week ending Saturday, Jan. 3, 1925. Twopence.

JOHN BULL

For the People—the Right to Justice and Truth.

The Paper on which the Sun never Sets.

93, Long Acre, London, W.C.2.
Telephone: Gerrard 9266.
Telegrams: Heroically, London.

The WORLD, the FLESH & the DEVIL

A Happy New Year!

We wish our readers this, feeling confident that better times are ahead for the workless and the houseless. Despite its political turbulence, 1924 was an improvement on 1923.

Good Luck to Him.

Differences of opinion do not prevent us wishing the ex-Premier bon voyage and a speedy return to health. He is a nerve-shattered man, and much in need of a complete rest.

And no Blacklegs!

While most of us have to be content with an odd day or two's holiday, our legislators do no work until February 10. It is a pretty example of the "ca-canny" they condemn in others!

The New St. George.

We echo wholeheartedly Mr. Baldwin's delight at the advent of youth and young ideas into politics. Nothing else can rid us of the war mind that still constitutes a dead weight on our national ideas and ideals.

When the Devil Drives.

It will take Mr. Baldwin all his vacation to work out his fiscal puzzle to the satisfaction of his own party—to say nothing of the Opposition and the country. At the moment he appears to have given Preference not to the Dominions but to his own Die-hards.

Quite Accurate.

When he says that his proposals are not the thin edge of the Protection wedge," he speaks nothing but the truth. They're the thick end.

Fiscal Family Jars.

Until the actual proposals are before the House, particularised comment would be unfair. We are, however, aware that there is considerable unease in the ranks of the Unionist Free Traders.

Irritating Everybody.

There is no question of dishonesty on Mr. Baldwin's part. He is the victim of a compromise policy—and, as usual, he is satisfying nobody. A compromise is always a two-edged weapon.

A Prosperous New Year to You.

We don't Know the Answer.

We have invented a puzzle which we invite the Cabinet to solve. How is it possible to (a) keep out foreign goods; (b) increase the revenue by taxing them as they come in?

All the Difference.

In office, Lloyd George had no scruples about the Safeguarding of Industries Act. Out of office, he thunders in righteous indignation against its iniquities. A corkscrew mind seems to be an essential part of a politician's equipment.

We'll Hope for the Best.

Mr. Chamberlain's assertion that he returned from Paris and Rome without commitments is satisfactory—if it is true. We can't help being suspicious when we remember the diplomatic denials that preceded the war.

A Case for Amity.

The Moroccan situation increases in gravity. Once again there is a clear call for the League of Nations.

No Exchange—No Robbery.

The danger is that we may give France a free hand in Morocco in exchange for her non-interference in Egypt. And it would not be the first time that diplomacy had attempted to prove that two blacks make a white.

Incalculable Consequences.

To proceed with the Singapore base may well turn Japan from a powerful peace factor into a sinister forcing ground of war. The Cabinet should ponder well before they make a blunder as colossal as Germany's challenge to the world.

Unity Essential.

The Government has invited the Dominions to a Conference on the Geneva Protocol. It is a wise decision. What the British Empire decides to do in this matter is going to turn the face of Europe either to permanent peace or inevitable war.

Ministers of the Empire.

A notable reform has been accomplished by placing the High Commissioners of the Dominions on exactly the same basis as any other Foreign Ministers. Such a move gives more meaning to Empire unity than a score of silly Singapores.

Open the Door.

Germany's definite request to be admitted to the League of Nations is another step towards European sanity. Like the Geneva Protocol it is a challenge to the sincerity of the League.

Sour Grapes.

Mr. Wheatley's diatribe against houses to sell seems to us rather pointless. Houses to sell are better than no houses at all, and houses to sell make other houses to let. So Mr. Wheatley may as well let Neville Chamberlain sell his houses.

Sweep Them Away.

"God," says the proverb, "made the country and the devil made the towns." Reading the recent revelations of our slums, we can believe it. As we can believe the assertion that the Glasgow slums are "Earth's nearest suburb to hell."

The Game is On!

The Food Commission has discovered that grain importers make hardly any profit, that millers make still less, and that bakers are almost bankrupt. But it hasn't found out why the four-pound loaf costs 10d.

Why? Who?

Nor has it discovered why, on the same day, this same loaf varies in price from 7d. to 10d. according to locality. And that is the only thing that interests the public.

The Grain of Truth?

And, meanwhile, we content ourselves with a cynical smile at those who are busy parading before the Commission the white flour of a blameless life.

Putting Their Foot in It.

The farmers say that unless they get better prices for their wheat the public will soon have to pay 1s. for their loaf. We can only repeat that British wheat already fetches a higher price than the imported article.

The Real Pinch.

The increase in the cost of living above pre-war prices is now 80 per cent. This includes all items. The increase in the price of food alone is—79 per cent! Gives the game away, doesn't it?

Plums—for Some.

We wish we held a lot of shares in the Assam Tea Company. At the beginning of the year each shareholder received a share bonus of 500 per cent.! But we, alas, can only buy tea at ever-increasing prices.

Demand, but No Supply.

In the County of Durham alone there are fifty-three coal pits idle. Meanwhile, the consumer is paying extortionate prices for poor coal. This seems to us a distinct case of cause and effect.

All Hereford can Afford?

Shame on the Herefordshire County Council which has advertised for temporary clerks at 30s. a week. This is a starvation wage, and the persons responsible, if they doubt it, might try living on this pittance themselves.

What a Mess!

The Labour Party decided to refuse admission to Communists. The Trade Union delegates have returned from Russia overflowing with praise for Communism and all its works. And now the officials of the Party are wondering what on earth to do about it.

This Week—

Special Articles by:

The Rt. Hon. Philip Snowden, M.P., on "France *Must* Pay!" .. .. p. 11
Dr. R. J. Campbell .. .. p. 7
Harrison Owen .. .. p. 12
A Hospital Superintendent .. .. .. p. 13
The Bishop of Lichfield... .. .. .. p. 13
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Wow!

"The Bolsheviks directed the delegation to arrange a speedy overthrow of the British Government," says a Riga message. But Comrade Purcell might as well know that we don't propose to lose any sleep on that account.

Sack for Saklatvala.

Mr. Saklatvala is very worried. He says the Anti-Communists are trying to isolate him in the country and bury him alive. He's blue for a Red!

Needed Lessons.

When the House reassembles, Mr. Lees-Smith will resume his lectures on Parliamentary procedure to the new Labour M.P.s. Mr. Wheatley's cohort of Clydesiders will not, we fear, be among his pupils.

The Man who Knows.

The railway crisis which was imminent has been staved off, certainly for some months. It is not without good reason that Mr. J. H. Thomas feels free to take a long holiday!

One or the Other.

We will not commit ourselves to a definite prophecy that the penny post will be a Budget feature. But if it isn't, the sixpenny telegram will be. And that will be something.

Nationalised Slaves.

Does the Postmaster-General know of the glaring cases of sweating that are going on in sub-post offices all over the country? He should make inquiries, and then administer a severe kicking to some of his officials.

Awakening Conscience.

The appointment of a committee to consider the whole question of juvenile offenders is a timely step. The very existence of a single child criminal is an indictment of organised society, and a symptom of social disease.

Laggard Lawyers.

In a recent law case the costs were £100, and the damages obtained were £7! There is no reason—except Governmental apathy—why the law should not be both cheap and prompt. A thorough overhauling of the legal machine is badly overdue.

Hail—and Farewell!

The Treasury says that "far-reaching schemes which have been placed before the Electricity Commissioners have been sympathetically examined." Which means, we suppose, that they have reached as far as the Whitehall pigeonholes. Why not get to work on them?

The Big Sham.

The great Traffic Advisory Committee has met—and hastily adjourned. As it has no powers whatever it is perhaps the wisest thing it could have done. For without powers we don't quite see what else it could have done.

Certified!

A witness before the Lunacy Commission pointed to the "over-spending of their incomes" as a symptom of insanity in many patients. Whitehall officials, please note carefully!

Medicine for Malingerers.

At Rochdale, employers and trade union officials have joined hands to prevent the abuse of the "dole." As a result the number of women cotton operatives receiving benefit has been reduced from over 1,200 to about 40. It is wonderful what joint action by Capital and Labour can do to lift the standard of industrial morality.

The Rent Ramp.

What would happen if the protection of the Rents Restriction Acts were withdrawn is very clearly shown in the case of houses to which the Acts do not apply. On the ourskirts of London it is no uncommon thing to see three or four unfurnished rooms offered at 30s. or £2 weekly, as against pre-war rents of 8s. 6d. or 10s. Only the operation of the Rents Acts prevents this wicked ramp from becoming universal.

Steady, Jix!

The Home Secretary appears to be contemplating big changes in the prison system. We are entirely with him in his desire to extend the probation system for first offenders, but Sir William's hint of indefinite detention for habitual offenders is less to our liking. The indeterminate sentence is opposed to the best traditions of British justice.

Is it Nice?

What is going to be done to stop the questionable practice of the authorities of H.M.S. *Hood* in putting a typewritten report of all offences and punishments of the petty officers and men on the general notice board of the ship? Strong feeling exists about this matter.

Breeding Little Traitors.

The teaching of little children to hate the King, to obtain their "freedom by the sword," and to read literature subversive of accepted morality has long been denounced in JOHN BULL. These objectionable things are features of all Communist Sunday Schools, and as many members of Parliament have endorsed our persistent protests, and are raising the matter in Parliament, official action may soon be taken.

Horrors of Lynching.

Lynch law, as it still obtains in some American States, is a disgrace to white civilisation. In Missouri not long ago a negro accused, not convicted, of an offence against a white girl, was hanged, shot, mutilated, and burned by an infuriated mob. While this sort of thing continues Uncle Sam cannot feel too comfortable on the moral pedestal he is sometimes inclined to assume.

The Human-Machine.

Courage & Fear.

by E. R. THOMPSON, M.A.

HERE is a problem that is certainly not confined to my correspondent. Her fear is no doubt common to hundreds of my readers at the present time.

"My husband works very late," she writes, "and there have been so many burglaries in this district that I am terrified at being left alone. All I can do is to sit and wait for the door to be opened.

"I tried wedging the door with a chair, but it was no better. Instead of watching the door, I now watch the chair, and sit waiting for it to move."

It is no use, of course, to do as my correspondent has done, and merely replace one fear by another. By using the chair she has (1) admitted the reality of her fear; (2) focussed it even more definitely than before.

Now I happen to know the district where this lady lives. She lives in a flat. There are neighbours above and below.

Let her fix her mind on the fact that she is surrounded by friends within easy call.

Next, the burglaries in her district have not occurred anywhere near her flat. Her road is particularly well patrolled by the police—another positive fact on which to fix her mind.

Let her face her fear on these lines, putting against a vague uneasiness all the positive facts on the other side that will bring comfort to her mind. There will be far more such facts.

In itself, each may be of only small value. Taken together, I fancy they will amount to a good deal.

It is always the vague sense of fear that is the hardest to bear. Put it in the balance against hard facts. You will be surprised at its insignificance.

A Very Gallant Gentleman.

No finer inspiration for the New Year can be imagined than the simple dying words of Dr. Edgar Chatterton, killed in a London bus-collision: "Don't let them blame the driver; it was not his fault." At the inquest the coroner paid his tribute to "a very generous-hearted man."

Sweating the Blind.

Will it be believed that in some of the workshops for the employment of the blind—where brushes, mats, mattresses, baskets and boots are made—and which are operated under the Blind Persons Act, the wages paid do not in many cases exceed £1 weekly? We think the public will agree that a general standard of wages should be introduced

Stolen Innocence.

There is no more disgusting offence than the violation of little children by perverted pests. We have demanded time and again more effective punishment of such bestial criminals, and we are glad to see that Sir Grattan Doyle has raised the matter in the House of Commons. The Home Secretary has promised to give the matter his attention—which we hope will result in legislation that makes the punishment fit the crime.

A Living Tomb.

Twenty-two years ago Isaiah Meechan became an asylum inmate. Time after time he has tried to regain his liberty, and several people think that he should be set free. The matter has been taken up on many occasions with the Prison Commission of Scotland—Meechan is at present in the asylum attached to Perth prison—but without success. We agree with those working for his release that, after twenty-two years, an impartial and special inquiry should be held into his case.

Not a Good Example.

As we have often said, the State and the municipalities are frequently among the worst sweaters. A reader complains that his daughter working in a sub-post office is paid 6s. weekly, although handling thousands of pounds in the course of her duties. Roadmen employed by the Barnock Rural District Council work from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. for 26s weekly. What can be expected of private employers when public bodies set such examples?

Evicting Allotment Holders.

Sixty or seventy allotment holders at Rocky Hill, Maidstone, many of whom have been cultivating their little bit of land for about thirty years, are about to be dispossessed, if the local Council carry out their resolution to utilise the land as a housing site. However great the necessity for building houses may be, it can hardly justify the eviction of so many allotment holders when there are other sites available. We suggest that the Minister of Health should institute an enquiry before according sanction to the scheme.

Tommies' Parcels.

Judging from the number of complaints we receive from the troops in India regarding surcharges for Customs Duty on parcels delivered to them, the postal officials in this country seem to be woefully ignorant of the amounts of such duty which should be prepaid. In a recent case a soldier had to pay 2s. 6d. on a parcel valued at 3s. 4d. on which 1s. 5½d. had already been paid by the sender. The lot of the Tommy in India is sufficiently hard without his being made to pay twice over for his comforts in this manner.

Southern Railway Meanness.

A working woman living at Kingston-on-Thames who has been a season ticket holder on the Southern Railway for nearly six years recently took out a monthly ticket, but lost her employment a few days later. She thereupon asked whether any allowance could be made for the remaining period, and was informed that if the ticket was returned the application would receive consideration. The railway people not only refused to allow her anything, but retained the ticket in their possession until within three days of its expiry! Verily these corporations seem to be a law unto themselves.

Sheffield Blades.

A Sheffield cab-driver refused to take three dubious looking men as fares, whereupon one whipped out a revolver and fired just to show the taximan what sort of a man he was. Such conduct may be quite ordinary in U.S.A., but in Britain the sooner the gunman is separated from his gun the better we like the police.

Our New Year's Offer.

During 1924, JOHN BULL'S Free Insurance Gift directly benefited 14,000 readers, and freed hundreds of thousands more from the anxiety of sickness and accidents. It is offered again during 1925 as the finest New Year's present from any British journal to its readers. Full particulars are given in this issue.

Wisdom in the East.

Mr. Justice Farrer-Manby recently sentenced four blackguards found guilty of abducting and assaulting a Chinese girl to ten and fifteen years' rigorous imprisonment each on the two counts. This was in the Federated Malay States, in the region where, according to Kipling, "there ain't no Ten Commandments." It is a pity that a few of our magistrates cannot be shipped "somewhere East of Suez" to learn wisdom.

Marriage off the Strength.

The War Office recruiting posters omit to say that young men who wed will have to marry "off the strength." The decree has gone forth that no soldier will be placed on the waiting list for quarters until he has reached the age of twenty-six. The Army claims to teach men civil trades—what about building married quarters? Meanwhile the lot of a girl who marries a soldier off the strength is such that many men desert in the hope of providing for the woman they love.

Mythical Millions.

The Treasury has seen fit to issue a warning about the folly of throwing away money in trying to establish claims to the many mythical millions that are supposed to be held in trust by the authorities for the heirs of certain notorious estates. These estates are non-existent, but that does not deter the fact that by means of advertisements and inspired articles in the Press new fools are found daily to send inquiry fees to establish their titles to these millions.

After the Law!

"If you see it in JOHN BULL, it is so!" Since our recent exposure of unregistered loan and slate club swindles, in which we predicted the usual crop of "share-out" tragedies this Christmas, a large number of arrests have been made of defaulting secretaries. One day last week no fewer than three tricksters appeared in the dock respecting different offences! The law is greatly to blame. With sterner regulations, most of the swindlers would not have the chance to rob their fellows.

"Girl's Nightmare in Chinatown."

The amazing story of Beatrice Ah Soo, which was recently told under the above heading, has shocked the public. We have been in touch with Shrapton Hospital, and hope to get special treatment for this broken woman, now completely in the grip of the white scourge. The Hospital Almoner reports to us that Mrs. Ah Soo needs immediate treatment, as "she has lately had pneumonia and is not in a fit condition to look after herself." Who can say that white women do not suffer hell in the mire of Chinatown?

Pampering a Murderer.

Apparently the policy of pampering Ronald True in Broadmoor has begun afresh, for he is now basking in the full glory of his position as gentleman boarder, and has his morning cup of tea brought to him by his own personal servant. Another circumstance is that, believing himself to have escaped the gallows completely and with nothing more to fear than detention in these comfortable quarters, True has abandoned his plea of madness and is now looked upon as one of the most rational inmates of the asylum. The time has come for a new stocktaking of the mental state of True.

Problems of Life.

Welcoming the New Year

by the Rev. R. J. CAMPBELL, D.D.

ONE of the sights of London is the assembly of Scotsmen on the steps of St. Paul's on New Year's eve.

You will hear more of the native speech of Robert Burns on that occasion than on any other, in Scotland or out of it, from January to December.

When the clock strikes twelve the greetings begin—every man to his fellow, whether he has ever seen him before or not—"A Happy New Year! A Happy New Year!"

Then they join hands all round, thousands of them, and, amid inundations of cheers and laughter, they sing the pathetic song of which every Englishman knows at least the refrain, strange though the dialect be in which it is phrased—Auld Lang Syne.

ONE reason why people of Scottish blood make so much of the New Year is that ever since the Reformation the Christmas festival has meant less to them than to their southern neighbours; but there are other reasons too in which the English can share with them.

They are a plucky, hopeful race, ever looking forward to better things; no difficulties dismay them; and they are possessed by the quenchless faith that life is good in proportion as it is firmly grasped, mastered, wielded, and directed to definite ends.

This is a sane, healthy creed, the creed of strong minds and warm hearts.

SOME people dread the coming of a New Year because they know not what evil it may have in store for them. They feel apprehensive of the future because of their bitter experience of the past.

"I hate the sound of those bells," said an old friend to me once as were we seeing the New Year in together. I knew what he meant and why. The pealing of the bells brought vividly back to him the emotions of a time of terrible sorrow when all he loved best in the world was passing out of his life to the accompaniment of a glorious carillon in a neighbouring steeple.

But the New Year chimes should be heard as a promise of blessing and a call to courageous action.

We are greater than our world; we transcend our years; our yesterdays survive in our tomorrows; nothing perishes that is precious.

All we have ever loved and been the better for loving is waiting for us to reclaim it on higher levels. "The best is yet to be."

* * *

*** Dr. Campbell's "John Bull" Articles have just been published in book form by John Lane at 5s.*

Sticky Stubb.

Frederick Stubbs, of Scotland Green Road, Tonbridge End, is a financial shark. He has been carrying on business as a moneylender without being registered under the Moneylenders' Act, and it is stated that in one case he charged interest which amounted to 1,000 per cent. per annum! When he was fined £5 at Enfield Police Court last week, he admitted that he was not a "strong" moneylender, and that his "bank" was only £4 10s. This case is a further instance why Parliament should overhaul the law.

A One-sided Business.

"Winnings posted promptly every Monday," declares George Beresford, Football Accountant, 165, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C., in his prospectus. This does not even seem to mean posted in Beresford's ledgers, let alone posted to his clients, for a reader who won 22s. failed to receive the money, and was informed that owing to a clerical error his list had been placed with the losers. Even after the error had come to light, he did not receive his winnings, but was merely notified that the amount had been placed to his credit, and Beresford denied having received a subsequent winning commission. It seems a very one-sided business.

Security for Samples.

A concern called "The Association of Hygiene," which purports by its printed notepaper to have an office and a telephone at 43, Chancery Lane, W.C., but sends out communications from 23, Arthur Street, Ampthill, Beds, offers ladies employment selling bandages, and demands a deposit of 10s. as security for samples. Our efforts to get into touch with the "Association" on the telephone were fruitless, the line being "temporarily out of service." As this is simply a polite way of camouflaging the fact that a telephone subscriber has not paid his account, we do not recommend readers to send money to this somewhat mysterious organisation.

A GIFT WORTH 25/-

to every "JOHN BULL" reader.

See pages 26, 27.

Act, Board of Trade!

An interesting sequel has followed our exposures of Edwin Enever, whose many bogus companies, after the limelight of publicity had been thrown on them, have landed him in jail. Lt.-Genl. Kavanagh, one of his victims, has just won an action in the High Court, and the Board of Trade will find much evidence in this case to justify the amendment of the Company law. Will the President act?

Colonel's Electric Sparks.

Colonel E. O. Eaton is still at his games. Public memory is short; and unless we warn people against his record whenever he puts forward a new scheme, would-be investors are apt to be drawn into his net. Eaton's latest venture is the Southern Counties Electric Light and Power Supply Company, and as we suspect readers will shortly be loaded with its prospectuses, we advise them to keep a wary eye on him.

A Captain's Craft.

Several people have been victimised by two enterprising rascals who describe themselves as Scotland Yard detectives. They call upon hotels when they know the proprietors are away and, stating that it "is too late to get money from the Yard to-day," obtain £5 from wives and secretaries on account of urgent business. One of the rogues calls himself "Captain Mack." We hope real detectives from Scotland Yard will detect these impostors before they rob many more victims.

Slowcoach Clothing Co.

Seeing that most of their trade is done with the poorer classes who have to pinch and scrape to save up even 19s. 3d. for a suit of clothes, the dilatory methods of the "Veget" Wearproof Clothing Co., 85, Gray's Inn Road, are particularly reprehensible. Not only have several readers found it impossible to obtain delivery of clothes paid for weeks beforehand, but one who found the goods hopelessly unsatisfactory and was promised that if he returned them his remittance would be refunded, sent them the parcel as requested but cannot get his money. This is not the first time we have had to criticise the concern, but there seems no sign of improvement.

IF THE KING ONLY KNEW

WIDOW TO BE TURNED OUT OF HER COTTAGE

The Letter from the Deputy Treasurer

WE beg respectfully to call the attention of His Majesty King George V. to the case of Mrs. Alice M. Cook, of Laundry Cottage, Kew Foot Road, Richmond, Surrey, whose husband served the Royal Family faithfully and loyally for twenty-three years, and who is now, with her two children, under the shadow of eviction.

The King has never been wanting in sympathy for the most unfortunate of his subjects, and we are certain that no one connected with his own household is likely to suffer injustice after he has personally investigated the circumstances.

Mrs. Cook's story is a pathetic one. Two years ago, on November 24, 1922, her husband, Sydney Cook, died suddenly while at work as a groom at the Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace, leaving his widow with two children, a girl of fourteen and a boy of eleven.

Mrs. Cook was prostrated by the shock, and fell ill with, among other things, internal hæmorrhage. Owing to the state of her health, and to the difficulty of finding a suitable home, she was allowed to remain for a time in the married quarters at the Royal Mews.

She was not entitled to any pension, but was granted, as is usual in such cases, what is known as a compassionate allowance, amounting to £30 per annum. As is also customary, an effort was made to find her a cottage where she could live rent free, and, finally, in July, 1923, she was permitted by Mr. Ralph Endersby Harwood, Deputy Treasurer to the King, to occupy the entrance cottage, at the Royal Laundry, Richmond.

Prior to that Mr. Harwood offered to find the boy a "scholarship" at some school, and the girl a place in domestic service. Mrs. Cook, having other plans for her children, declined the offer. She felt, as most mothers would in the circumstances, that the separation from her children so soon after their father's death was more than she could bear, and that in any case she might, with a struggle, do better for them herself.

The occasions are very rare when a good mother, as Mrs. Cook undoubtedly is, has not the right to keep her children in her own care until they are able to look after themselves.

Apparently some offence was given which, if it did not lead to the subsequent threat of eviction which brought the case within our notice, was, at least, still remembered. On October 10, 1924, Mrs. Cook learned from Messrs. Clutton, 5, Great College Street, Westminster Abbey, that as the Royal Laundry had been agreed to be let by the Commissioners of Woods, possession of the Entrance Lodge (Laundry Cottage) was required.

Mr. R. E. Harwood, the King's Deputy Treasurer.

Having nowhere else to go, and with no offer of alternative accommodation from Buckingham Palace, Mrs. Cook had to remain at the cottage, and the case came before the justices at Richmond Police Court on November 28.

Mrs. Cook stated in evidence that, when given the cottage in July, 1923, she had been promised by Mr. Harwood, that, should the Commissioners of Woods later require possession, she would be found a home. Mr. Harwood, who was called as a witness, denied that he had made such a promise.

The case went against Mrs. Cook, and three weeks' notice of eviction was given, terminating on December 18, when a stay of execution was granted for a month.

In desperation she wrote to Mr. Harwood, begging that she should not be made homeless, and suggesting that she might be kept on the same footing as the other widows of Royal servants at Hampton Court Mews and Cumberland Lodge.

She received the following reply from the Deputy Treasurer:

". . . I regret that it is impossible for me to find you other accommodation when you leave the Laundry Cottage.

"I must point out to you that had you accepted the advice which I gave to you, namely, that you should allow us to find a good situation for your daughter, that you should accept the offer to place your boy in a school, and that you yourself (being still a young woman) should obtain some sort of employment, the present position need never have arisen. . . ."

The letter requires no comment from us, except to point out that while we did not ask Mrs. Cook any questions about her age, we knqw that she is not possessed of Amazonian physical strength.

Our impression is that the little needlework which she takes in for a pittance, and such domestic duties as mending the children's boots which, by the way, she does herself, is about all she is fit for, without breaking her back. And we are confident that the King's own doctor would confirm that impression.

Breaking Sticks and Hearts

How three ex-officers lost £1,500

THE partnership-with-investment pitfall has been responsible for many tragedies of broken lives and blighted prospects.

After the war a demobilised captain who was anxious to make up in civilian life the years wasted on the battlefields, got into touch through an advertisement with a firm of Partnership and Business Transfer Agents, with an Office in the Strand, London, who wrote him as follows:

"We have two partnerships on our books at £500, one in a Packing Case Makers in North London, which has been established four years, trade £60 a week, salary £5 per week and 25 per cent. of the profits. The incoming partner can have a security for his money on the machinery. This is a valuable business which has immense possibilities."

Acting on the advice of these agents, he deposited £500 with an individual named Joseph Robertshaw, who was trading at the North London Box Company, at 9, Ockenden Road, Islington, N.

About the same time two other officers did likewise, and with an influx of fresh capital to the amount of £1,500, it is not surprising that the business wore an air of prosperity when these soldiers three entered upon their duties.

The high hopes they entertained were rudely shattered within a few months, however. There came a sudden crash, Robertshaw was made bankrupt.

The most scandalous thing about the affair was their discovery that the machinery which was supposed to be their security was not Robertshaw's property at all, being held by him under a hire-purchase agreement.

In the protracted proceedings in the Bankruptcy Court which followed the crash some interesting incidents in the career of this person Robertshaw came to light.

He was employed as a labourer in a cotton mill until he was twenty-three years of age, when he obtained a science scholarship for two years at the Royal College of Science. Later he held science masterships at a number of technical schools, and subsequently forsook education for what doubtless proved a more lucrative, though less honourable, business career.

In 1916 he started as a firewood merchant without capital, and ultimately induced these three ex-officers to sink their savings in what must at the time have been a waterlogged ship, for his statement of affairs in bankruptcy shows gross liabilities of £4,081 with no assets but a bad book debt of £179 estimated to produce nil.

The Official Receiver has recently informed these unfortunate investors that there is little hope of anything being recovered from the wreck.

Good Money After Bad

A debt collector's debts

SOME tricksters never tire of practising their trickery; and Mr. Walter Lucas Hawkins, of 12, High Street, Luton, is one of them.

Hawkins called upon a Baldock reader soliciting debts to collect, stating that he had large batches from surrounding places. The Baldock creditor gave him several commissions.

Hawkins did not seem an expert at debt collecting, at least so far as the Baldock gentleman was concerned. One day, however, the latter discovered that Hawkins had been successful in recovering some of his money, but for some reason had not paid it over.

Requests to Mr. Hawkins for the money brought excuses from all parts, by wire, by telephone and by letter. Eventually five pounds was posted from Ely, together with a promise that the rest would be sent weekly.

Nothing Doing.

It did not come weekly. It has not come yet. The Baldock creditor was compelled to place the matter in the hands of local solicitors. Their attempt to recover the money was unsuccessful, and the matter was then placed in the hands of a firm of lawyers nearer Hawkins' domain—in Luton itself.

Their report is not very encouraging. They stated that from their knowledge of Hawkins, covering a lengthy period, they can safely say that, in their opinion, civil proceedings against Hawkins would only result in the expenditure of throwing good money after bad!

We should not bother with Hawkins at all except for the fact that he runs a "Business Transfer Agency," and is constantly getting money from people on the investment-with-employment basis.

Last summer he was charged with obtaining money by false pretences in an investment-with-employment proposition, but the Bench thought there was a doubt—and gave him the benefit of it. They told him, however, to return the money thus obtained.

The Duped Ex-soldier.

In another case he was sued for fraud and was mulcted for £400 damages. He had taken the life savings of a poor ex-soldier, and, after a lot of lying excuses, had left him broken and stranded and penniless.

Hawkins is a shark. The public should beware of any proposition that he puts forward.

He has spent a good deal of his time in county courts, excusing himself for taking other people's money for certain purposes and for not using it, as he should have done, in accordance with the agreements he made. Many people who have been tricked by him are wondering whether his experiences before the Bench will always be confined to courts which deal only with civil proceedings.

WERNHER ROBBERY: *Dramatic Disclosures!*

"CAT" BURGLAR'S NAME REVEALED IN AMAZING STORY OF THE UNDERWORLD

How the Thieves "Double-Crossed" Each Other

SINCE the famous case of Mr. "A" there has been no more startling story of crime than that which we propose to tell here.

The late Sir Julius Wernher was one of the millionaires made by the discovery, a generation ago, that South Africa was full of gold and diamonds. Amongst the others who shared this discovery were the Joels and the Barnatos.

Sir Julius Wernher, having acquired a colossal fortune, interested himself in collecting antique and bizarre jewellery, the kind of things one would expect to be housed in the Wallace collection.

Now, all over the world where crooks and thieves are gathered together, the favourite topic is the rich man who collects jewels and priceless works of art. Amongst the Fagins, this hobby is regarded as a pleasant and profitable eccentricity.

The Famous Human Ape.

A group of crooks gathered in a well-known West End restaurant early this summer and discussed the people who, from their point of view, were "worth while." Some very distinguished persons were mentioned as likely to be a source of profit, but finally it was decided that the jewels of the late Sir Julius Wernher's widow, apart from his famous treasures of art, would be a rare mark.

There were six people in this conspiracy. Although they did not want the Wernher collection of jewels, they knew that Lady Wernher had married again, and they were confident that once they got into her house their enterprise would be well rewarded.

There is in this country at the present time an extremely skilful criminal. He is, in plain words, the famous "Cat" burglar.

His name is Craig, and he is known to his confederates in this country as "Little George," and is notorious in America as "The Human Ape." He also uses the aliases of Arthur, Atherley and Bradley.

When Thieves Fall Out.

He is so dexterous that he can climb the face of any building as well as can climb a wall, and he is so skilful that it is his boast that he can enter a room without disturbing its sleeping occupants or, if they are awake, without being aware of his presence.

He was given the job of robbing Bath House, the well-known mansion in Piccadilly, which is the home of Lady Ludlow, formerly the wife of the late Sir Julius Wernher.

Everything went according to plan except for two things. The six burglars who were to carry out the job had, in the meantime, quarrelled amongst themselves, and an inner conspiracy of three resolved to let down the other three. The theory that there is honour amongst thieves is not known in the underworld.

The second thing that frustrated the plan was the fact that Lady Ludlow, whose movements were known and under observation, had gone out for the evening to dinner, but had returned earlier than was expected. She went to bed and locked the door of her bedroom.

How the Job was Done.

Shortly afterwards "The Human Ape" climbed in through one of the upper windows. He felt absolutely secure in his job. Everything had been so perfectly arranged.

There were two other conspirators who helped in the matter. They were "Long George" and "Mac the M.U.G." "Long George" is the brains carrier of a gang of international crooks. He has made vast sums of money as an intrepid burglar, and he has spent it with fierce prodigality. Some time ago he lost tens of thousands of pounds at Monte Carlo.

"Mac the M.U.G." is a different type of rogue. He is a degenerate scion of the aristocracy, and he gets his name from his fashionable habit of pretending to be a "mug" amongst his society friends when, in reality, he is getting information from them for his confederates in crime. His birth and breeding entitle him to be received in the best circles of society.

Where the Jewels Went.

In this way, as a matter of fact, he has been the instigator of some of the most amazing jewel robberies of modern times. He has been responsible for the loss of hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of jewellery by cleverly conceived robberies.

The robbery of Bath House was a failure. The thieves, "Little George," "Long George" and "Mac the M.U.G."—who is also known as the "Putter-Up"—could not get into Lady Ludlow's bedroom, where her jewellery was known to be. So the thieves, at the suggestion of "Mac the M.U.G." (who had been drinking heavily and was by this time very unsteady), lifted much of the Wernher collection. "The Human Ape" passed the swag to "Long George," waiting below, and the thieves got away with it easily and safely.

It was not what they wanted. This priceless collection of jewellery could only be sold to connoisseurs, and the unfortunate thing for the robbers was that the connoisseurs knew all about it. But they believed that they could use it as a lever for extorting money.

The stuff was accordingly placed in a safe spot until the situation could be thought over. In the meantime the other three rascals discovered that they had been jockeyed or "slashed," and there was a row among them.

"Little George," accompanied by

Lady Ludlow, formerly Lady Wernher, whose collection of Antiques is famed throughout the world.

"Mac the M.U.G.," after a hectic time in the West End, went to Margate to "recuperate," and later came back to town and stayed at a well-known hotel in the Strand. When the storm had blown over a little, he once again mixed freely with the "boys" in their West End haunts and fresh plots were embarked upon.

The three "slashed" crooks still vowed vengeance on the others.

But the receiver, not concerned in these minor matters, was in the meantime trying to dispose of the jewels. When he found he could not do so, because they were so well known, it was decided to "work them back" in return for the advertised reward.

The advertised reward was £5,000. A polite inquiry was put through as to whether that reward would be extended to £10,000, and in the end the jewels were returned.

Getting Hold of the "Fence."

Is the matter to rest here? Some of the worst crooks of the underworld, who discuss this amazing story between themselves, regard the immunity of the "Human Ape" with amazement in view of their common belief that he and his confederates could easily be located by the police.

It is a very interesting story. But in the public interest one or two important questions ought certainly to be asked.

Has Scotland Yard, for example, taken any steps to ascertain who was the original "fence" or "receiver" of these jewels?

If they had done so they would have found that this original "fence," who presently divested himself of the swag, is quite a notorious person in the world of shady finance. He is an expert in the safe business of "Long Firm Frauds."

Who Got the Reward?

In the underworld of crime it is known by crook friends of "The Human Ape" that some weeks ago anonymous letters were sent to Scotland Yard and the Public Prosecutor, probably by one of the disgruntled and "jockeyed" conspirators, revealing much of the story.

Perhaps Scotland Yard and the Public Prosecutor's office did not believe a word of it, a perfectly proper proceeding, as no one is morally bound to pay any attention to anonymous letters.

But there is another matter in this connection which certainly ought to be carefully investigated. That is the question of the very large amount offered by way of reward.

If the claims of everybody who suggested that they were entitled to a share of this reward were carefully investigated, not only would there be a direct clue to the robbery, but a most astonishing and amazing story would come to light.

Clues for Scotland Yard.

Many fanciful stories have been told about this robbery, such as that it was instigated by a millionaire in America now dead, and that the jewels were smuggled abroad. There is no truth in this. They never left London.

The main features of the story are, however, clear. It was a deliberate and cunning burglary. Burglary is a serious crime, and it is the duty of Scotland Yard, when such a thing takes place, to unravel it, and see that the perpetrators are condignly punished.

Investigate the record of "Little George," the "Human Ape," and the clue will be found to the "Cat" burglaries which have so disturbed the police and so besmirched the reputation of Scotland Yard for vigilance and acumen.

Fair Play for Lunatics

An Inquiry Needed

A CASE occurred a little while ago at the Long Grove Mental Hospital, where a young man who had been sent there by the Wandsworth Board of Guardians was found to be suffering from a severe physical injury. He complained that one of the attendants had a spite against him, and stated that this was not the first time he had been badly injured in the same way and by the same man.

No one, of course, would think of taking the uncorroborated word of a patient in a mental hospital, but the injury, which was a severe one, spoke for itself.

A sub-committee of the Guardians visited the hospital. One member of this committee spoke to one of the doctors, and his complaint is that this doctor treated him and his colleagues as though they were children.

Another guardian asked a doctor at the hospital if he would like to make a statement, but he declined to do so, while yet another doctor observed that the injured man had himself made no complaint, but that his condition was examined carefully when it was discovered that he was badly wounded.

One can, of course, understand that the doctors may be tempted to resent severe cross-examinations from the Board of Guardians who are not their employers—they serve under the London County Council—but in that case the proper procedure seems to be for the Board of Control under the Home Office to order an inquiry.

An inquiry into this case is certainly necessary. The authorities cannot afford to permit grave questions to go unanswered.

Silver Fox Tales

What's in a Name?

SEVERAL people have had a disastrous experience with a Mr. D. W. Forbes, who also uses the name of A. M. Porter.

One lady got in touch with him for employment, and had to deposit about eighty pounds as "security" for the goods she carried. She was told her money would be returned on giving a month's notice.

She knew him first as D. W. Forbes; then, suddenly, he decided to become A. M. Porter instead.

One may quite reasonably ask "What's in a name?"

Mr. "Forbes-Porter" was, amongst other things, the guiding spirit of a concern called The Canadian Silver Fox Farms Company, Ltd., Carlton House, Regent Street, W. Discovering that his affairs were entirely unsatisfactory, and that his business was not what he had represented it to be, the lady asked for her money back. She did not get it. She has not got it yet.

If people would only make adequate enquiries, in cases of this kind, *before* parting with cash, they would find that the gilt-edged propositions are mostly booby-traps.

IN DARKEST MAYFAIR

Strange Immunity of Evil Dens

THE perils that lie in wait for young women coming to London in search of work are illustrated in the story of a young Scotch girl who recently applied to a registry office for a position as a domestic servant. She came from her village home in Morayshire to work for a lady who keeps a flat in Shaftesbury Avenue, W., and for a few days all seemed well.

Then, to her horror, she discovered one night that she was landed in a den of white slavery. The owner of the flat lent it to men and women of ill repute, and claimed from them a large percentage of their profits from vice.

Frightened at her abandoned employer's intentions toward her, the young girl sought the timely help of a gentleman, who took her away from the dreadful place and sent her home. She only escaped a terrible fate by the narrowest margin.

The police are not paying sufficient attention to dens of vice such as this, and more effective steps must be taken to close them down and prosecute the promoters.

It is true a prosecution sometimes takes place. One house, for example, was raided recently in North London, and the woman running it sent to jail. But she was only a pawn in the game, a struggling widow who let rooms to questionable characters for a few shillings a day.

Another prosecution was that, a fortnight ago, of Ada Bragestein, an alien, who is now in jail for keeping a disorderly den in Hogarth Houses, Stepney. Bragestein deserved her fate; but she, too, was only a pawn, operating on the fringe of the traffic.

Why do the police confine themselves to small cases like these? Why do they not raid the real dens, the West End palaces of vicious pleasure, the evil haunts of degenerate swells and depraved pests? Why do they prosecute the pawns only and not the queens?

There is a den in Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, run by a woman who has for years lived in luxury on vice and degradation. She has a top floor flat, magnificently furnished, and caters for all the worst forms of immorality. All her girls are on the telephone, and she calls for them according to the requirements of her clients. Some of the girls, who are put through the most amazing and unprintable ordeals, get only a fraction of the huge sums of money paid over to her. Why do the police not raid this den? We will be pleased to give them full particulars, with names and addresses, if they will investigate the facts in the public interest.

Another dreadful den of shame is in Clarges Street, Mayfair, and is run by a notorious woman, who is nearly always drunk, and who has also reaped a rich harvest for years by shocking malpractices. Her rendezvous is even worse than the one in Jermyn Street, and her patrons are more exclusive. She keeps a long list of girls whom she telephones when required, and to whom she pays about a twentieth of the money obtained from her degraded clients.

The third worst den at present in Mayfair is in Bird Street, W. It is kept by a heartless woman who caters chiefly for titled men and people in high society. This harpy, regardless of expense, arranges "tableaux" calculated to appeal to depraved minds.

To describe some of the lurid scenes which take place at these places would be impossible—even the slightest descriptive version would be unprintable.

We call upon the police to prosecute these brazen "Queens."

Say it with Music!

Love lyrics that Cupid seldom sees

THE most common pitfall for inexperienced poets is in the form of an advertisement asking for verses suitable for setting to music. The budding lyrist who submits his efforts is delighted to learn that a "Board of Selection" or "Publication Committee" have expressed a high opinion of his work, and that the advertisers are prepared to publish it provided it is set to music by a composer suggested by them.

He eagerly pays a fee of about £5 5s. for this gentleman's services, and in many cases that is the last that is heard of his song poem.

Even if he should receive the manuscript of the music—which often he does not—and forward it to the publishers, he is as far off fame as ever, for the difficulties in the way of publication seem to be well-nigh insuperable. Delay follows delay, and when, after many weary months of waiting with a sickening heart for the realisation of his deferred hopes, he loses all patience and speaks of taking legal proceedings, he is sometimes informed that the publishers themselves have suffered misfortunes calculated to transform his threats into tears of sympathy.

Such was the case with "British Song Publishers," formerly of 167, Regent Street, W., now of 52, Great Marlborough Street, W., who undertook to publish a song poem if it were set to music by David Archer, a composer whom they introduced and to whom £5 5s. was paid.

After months of delay, they put forward as an excuse "large defalcations by our late General Manager, which are of such proportions as to very considerably cripple this business in consequence." When asked whether he had been prosecuted, or the matter placed in the hands of the police, they replied, "No arrest was made in the case of this man, as he had left the country before discoveries were made."

The name of the General Manager who is alleged to have absconded after embezzling the assets of the concern is J. E. Godson, against whom we issued a warning last September, and the name of his successor is Archer. Whether the latter is related to David or not we do not know, but, in spite of their misfortunes, "British Song Publishers" are still advertising for more lyrics.

Rouged Rogues

WE disclose the following facts in the hope that the police will make proper investigations and round up a number of men who are a disgrace to their sex.

Some of them are bullies of the worst type, and others are of the effeminate class who rouge their lips and paint their faces and imitate in other ways the fair sex for purposes of crime.

The Criminal Investigation Department of Scotland Yard is well aware of their dreadful work. More special police officers have recently been employed to keep observation on certain members of the gang, but a much more thorough and searching investigation is needed if the police hope to stop their activities.

The principal meeting-places of the gang at present are a large and famous West End restaurant, and a buffet adjacent. At all hours of the day and night members of the gang are seen discussing their plans.

Frank Jones, one of the minor members of the gang, has just gone to jail for six months. He was charged with importuning male persons in a public place at Windsor Passage, Westminster, and had already been convicted several times. Jones was of the "powder and paint" calibre.

Another rascal is William Kin[g] who has just been "sent down" [for] nine months and ordered eight[een] strokes with the "cat." He sto[od] at the corner of Hay Hill and Dov[er] Street, Piccadilly, annoying one [man] after another.

We call upon Scotland Yard [to] start a definite campaign against [the] gang of super-scoundrels.

It is an appalling scandal [that] respectable citizens cannot [go] abroad without having their [feel]ings outraged by such vicious [hu]man scourges and vermin.

FRANCE *Must* PAY!

THE British taxpayer is justly indignant that he should be taxed to pay £35,000,000 a year to America on a loan which we borrowed to hand over to France, while France pays not a penny of interest to us.

by **The Rt. Hon. PHILIP SNOWDEN, M.P.**
(Ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer)

RUMOURS that negotiations were going on with America for the settlement of the French and Italian debts to that country have brought the question of inter-Allied debts into a new prominence. The patient British taxpayer has too long been content to go on paying other people's debts. But if Great Britain's debtors are in a position to pay another of their creditors whose claim is neither so urgent nor so justifiable as her own, then the time to press her own claim has come.

Great Britain has been magnanimous towards her allies in the Great War. She has been generous to them at the expense of her own people. We made far greater financial sacrifices than any other of the Allied Powers. And let it not be forgotten that it was not a war in which the national security of Great Britain was primarily involved. "Our liabilities," Lord Balfour told the Allied Governments quite truly, "were incurred not for ourselves but for others."

That is the first fact which must be understood in considering the question of inter-Allied debts. That gives our claim a special priority. Notwithstanding the fact that our expenditure on the war was incurred "for others and not for ourselves," we spent far more upon the war than any of the other Allied or associated Powers. According to a comparative table of the expenditure of the principal Allied Powers up to the Armistice, compiled by the Bankers' Trust Company of New York, Britain spent 34.49 per cent. of her total national wealth, France 19.36, and the United States 8.67 per cent.

A Million a Day Keeps Prosperity Away.

We have taxed ourselves for the war as no other nation has done. Last year the taxation per head of the population in Britain was £17 9s., and in France it was only £9 12s. per head. We have to take over £2,000,000 a day out of the labour of the British people to pay the national expenditure, and about £1,000,000 of this is to pay interest and sinking fund on the war debt.

All this £1,000,000 a day is unproductive expenditure. It means that every day 15,000,000 people must, on the average, do an hour's work to pay the interest upon the war debt! And 5,000,000 British workmen have to work an hour every day, the year through, to pay interest upon the debt which our late Allies on the war owe to us.

In view of the foregoing facts it is not surprising that the British taxpayer has at last grown restive under the burden of other people's debts. He may not understand the complicated and intricate problems involved in payment of international debts, but his sense of fair dealing is outraged by the fact that this country should be taxed to pay about £35,000,000 a year to America on a loan which we borrowed from that country to hand over to France, while France pays not a penny of interest to us on this debt, though comparatively far more lightly taxed.

France Can Pay If She Tries!

Our Continental debtors were really too poor to pay; if they were bearing burdens equal to our own; if it were shown that to insist upon the payment of interest upon their debts would cause the collapse of their credits and react disastrously on international finance and trade, then, heavy as the burden is upon us, we should have to bear it with as much complacency as we could command.

But in the case of one of our debtors at least those conditions do not apply. France, as I have mentioned, is able to pay if she will make the effort. She maintains a colossal military expenditure. She has an expanding air force which compels Great Britain to increase her expenditure on that arm of defence. She has lent, since the Armistice, large sums to smaller European countries to be spent on armaments. She has spent vast sums on national reconstruction, especially upon the development of electricity supplies. She is entitled under the Spa agreement to 52 per cent. of the reparations paid by Germany, compared with our 22 per cent.

No Hope of Money from Russia.

Two of our other Continental debtors are in a less favourable position to meet their indebtedness. Russia owes us about £650,000,000. There is, I regret to say, little prospect of ever getting a penny of that loan. Italy is a much poorer country than France, but it is not beyond her powers to comply with a reasonable and generous arrangement.

Rt. Hon. Philip Snowden, M.P.

Italy's debt to us is over £500,000,000; Russia owes us about £650,000,000; and France owes us about the same amount. A few smaller European States owe us lesser sums, which make up the total debt to £2,000,000,000.

The unfairness of the present state of things lies in the fact that we are paying America interest and sinking fund on the money we borrowed from her to lend to France, while France is not paying us. In 1921 Lord Balfour addressed a Note to all our European debtors asking them to arrange the payments of their war debts to Britain. This note followed upon a demand from America upon us to pay our debt to her.

Britain Buys the Pup.

The Balfour Note, in the circumstances then existing, was a generous and practical proposal which would have solved the inter-allied debt problem in a simple way. The British Government generously offered to forego all claims on German reparations, and all claims to repayment by our allies, provided this renunciation formed part of a general plan.

In effect this meant that if America would cancel her claim upon us, which amounted to about £1,000,000,000, we would renounce our claim upon our Continental debtors amounting to twice that sum. But if America felt unable to rise to this example of magnanimity, then we would not ask from our debtors more than enough to pay America. America insisted upon the fulfilment of her bond, and later the Baldwin settlement of the American debt was arranged.

At the time Mr. Bonar Law said, "I am convinced that to make this payment to America without receiving anything from outside sources would reduce the standard of living in this country for a generation."

We are making this payment, and we are getting nothing from outside sources. The nature of this burden upon Britain is shown by a transaction in connection with the American debt which took place last week. The payment of the fourth half-yearly instalment of interest and the second of the 62 annual repayments of principal were made on the 15th ult. The total due was 91,655,000 dollars, and though the actual exchange in sterling is not yet known, it will probably amount to £20,000,000 for the half year.

The burden of this payment to America may be understood when I say that it is enough to abolish all the taxes on food or to reduce the income tax by about 8d. in the pound. Advocates of a reduction of the income tax maintain that all taxes, whether direct or indirect, fall ultimately to be paid by the working classes, and are paid by them either in the prices of the taxed commodities they buy or in lower wages.

How our Burden Can be Relieved.

This inter-allied debt question then comes down to the kitchen table. It is a burden upon the cost of living and upon wages. In Mr. Bonar Law's words it reduces the standard of living of the whole working-class population. The practical question now faces us in the consideration of this problem. How can we remove this burden?

We are paying America about £35,000,000 a year. Mr. Churchill has announced that he would be satisfied if he could get that annual sum from our debtors. Although it was probably not wise to say so at this stage, now that the admission has been made one may say that it is probably as much as we shall ever get. If we could get our European debtors to accept the obligation of our payments to America, it would greatly relieve our burden, and it would enormously simplify the problem of the transfer of payments through the exchanges.

In equity we are entitled to receive payment of their debts to us from our Allies in the war. It is intolerable that the British taxpayer should have to find vast sums for one creditor while his debtors are paying nothing to him, when all were partners in the common cause which produced the debts.

But the effects of the payment of international debts are so complex and intricate that it may not always be advantageous to a creditor to insist upon what he is entitled to in equity. America holds the key to the solution of this problem. If she would join in a general cancellation of inter-Allied debts it would be to the general advantage, and would avoid all the difficulties of international exchange.

Goods instead of Cash?

Failing that, the payment by the European debtors of our annual payments to America would have to be in the form of goods which would not compete with the productions of the receiving country. It is possible to do that up to a limited amount, and an annual payment of £35,000,000 is probably not in excess of that amount. If that were done relief to the British taxpayer would follow to that extent; the cost of production would fall; the standard of life would be raised, and trade and employment would improve.

The Sentence of the Court

THE THREE SEXES

Men, Women and Clergymen

by HARRISON OWEN

CALLED upon to show why he should not be dealt with for behaviour unbecoming a clergyman and a gentleman, the Rev. P. S. G. Propert, President of the Association of Poor Law Unions, pleaded that the words of which complaint was made were true and were used upon a privileged occasion.

"By urging that his statements, made before the Royal Commission on Lunacy, are true, the accused aggravates his offence," said Mr. Watchdog, K.C. "He informed the Commission that 'The Poor Law is becoming tremendously popular,' that 'the stigma' associated with it 'is passing away,' that this is not a state of affairs which should be encouraged, and that the apparent willingness of the poor to accept relief without feeling that there is any stigma attaching to them is sapping the nation's independence.

"These quotations, I submit, reveal unworthy cynicism and uncharitableness upon the part of this stipendiary Christian. Why should any stigma attach to these unhappy victims of circumstances?

"Happily, some of the worst horrors associated with Poor Law institutions have been done away with, but the workhouse still remains the next worst thing to jail. Only an ignorance of human nature, deplorable in a man in his position, could have caused the accused to prattle of the 'popularity' of the Poor Law and mistake the patient apathy of the down-and-out for a desire to get something for nothing."

MR. STRAWSPLITTER, for the defence, said that his client merely wished to guard against the danger of making Poor Law institutions too attractive. If Mr. Propert had misinterpreted the feelings of poor people, the poor had only themselves to blame, for many of them still treated clergymen as if they were different from ordinary men, and refused to talk frankly in their presence.

Pointing out that a witness before a Royal Commission was in a privileged position, Mr. Justice Bull said that the Court could not deal with the prisoner. "But I must say," the judge added, "that if this worker in the Lord's vineyard were a fair sample of his class, I should not be surprised at the reluctance of poor people to confide in wearers of the cloth.

"Mr. Propert's language makes me think that there is something in the French proverb which states that there are three sexes—'men, women and clergymen,' for the manliness of a man or the womanliness of a woman would prevent either from talking in such a strain. Why should any honest worker, fallen upon evil days, feel shame in accepting assistance from the State, any more than do his Majesty's judges in accepting pensions when their days of useful work are at an end? Certainly I am not aware that these pensions sap the independence of judges.

"I deeply regret that at a period of the year when the exercise of Christian charity is so much to be desired he should have provided professional Christianity with such a poor advertisement."

Saints and Sinners.

THE YOUNGSTER WITH THE WIG

Mr. Justice Swift and the Bail Scandal

by HESKETH PEARSON

ONE who knew Mr. Justice Swift in his early days at the Bar tells me that "none of his friends ever thought Rigby would get to the top of the tree." Although his father was a barrister, and the law was in his blood, he never appeared to be ambitious and never seemed to exert himself. He was just an ordinary conscientious fellow, who preferred society to books.

Apparently his marriage, in the first year or two of this century, spurred him on. He became far more serious and began to flirt with politics.

Realising, perhaps, that the road to success in his profession would be less thorny if he got on nodding terms with the Parliamentary big-wigs, he successfully wooed St. Helens, his native town, and represented it at Westminster for eight years.

HE was made Recorder of Wigan in 1915 and five years later was appointed Judge of the King's Bench Division. Up to that time he was hardly known to the general public. His opinions were moderate and he expressed them with moderation. But latterly he has appeared in the role of a reforming justice—a man with strong views which he expresses strongly.

The fact is that he has only just commenced to feel his feet. His natural nervousness is disappearing with the years. He has begun to think aloud on the Bench. It is no longer with him a polite "Don't you think so?" but a trenchant, "This is what I think—take it or leave it!" Even in private life he is getting a reputation for "laying down the law."

Fortunately, in his official capacity, he usually lays it down in the interests of the community. His recent outburst, in which he stigmatised the behaviour of magistrates in refusing to grant bail, exposed a flaming scandal and has already had a beneficial effect all over the country.

But there's a danger of his getting like Lord Darling and Mr. Justice Horridge and falling in love with his own opinions. Only the other day he came near to bullying a jury.

Mr. Justice Swift.

As judges go he's a youngster. With any luck he should have twenty solid years of work before him. Before it is too late, and the temptation to moralise has degenerated into a habit, I implore him to cut out the cant that has too long disgraced our law courts.

He must remember that he is a servant, not a schoolmaster.

AT least one can say that his head is screwed on the right way. A few weeks ago he granted an injunction in record time, having digested the full facts of a case and given his decision between the moment of taking his seat in a train and the moment of its departure.

And his few lapses are due to a natural irritation with the plodding, cumbrous, time-wasting methods of juries and barristers.

So there's some virtue even in his faults!

CARTOONETTES and Topical Jingles

by FRANK HOLLAND

Tho' Time beguiles us with his smiles
As New Year comes once more,
We fear his hope is just the dope
He's drugged us with before.

Such gifts as these would vastly please
The boys who've been denied 'em,
If they should find our rulers kind
Enough now to provide 'em.

When doctors differ, who shall say
Then what the patient's fate is?
So none it seems can tell to-day
What Russia's present state is.

No Fairy Queen comes on the scene
This Demon King to foil,
Tho' all his wealth is snatched by stealth
And simply robber's spoil!

THE TRAGIC BRIDE

WHAT is the use of life, and all the struggling, striving and suffering of life? All of us have asked this question at some crisis. Does God watch people's hearts breaking?

by A HOSPITAL SUPERINTENDENT.

A FEW weeks ago there was brought to my hospital a man who had lost his life as the result of a taxi-cab accident in Trafalgar Square. This man, thirty-five years of age, held a high and responsible position in a Government department, and he had been married only a week. It fell to my lot to break the news of his death to his wife—a seven days' bride.

I shall not easily forget the scene that followed. Like a statue she stood, numbed and stunned by the tragic news. For over an hour she remained oblivious of her surroundings. Then she broke down completely. Prostrate with grief, the tears of anguish rolled down her cheeks unrestrained.

The honeymoon had been cut short; but for that the tragedy would never have happened. When she quietened down her voice sounded far away as though in a dream. The wedding ceremony was now her theme. . . . How wonderful it all was and what an impressive service it had been.

She paused and, in a voice which shook with indignation, she cried, "What's the use of it all? How can there be a God to allow such things as this to happen?"

Cry of the Ages.

It was the echo of a cry which has been ringing through all the ages. As soon as trouble comes along people begin to ask the meaning of it all. A famous scientist recently said to me as we walked together through my hospital, "If I were the responsible maker of a world like this, stricken with suffering and tortured with pain, I think it would break my heart."

At times a similar feeling creeps over me. I spend my days in an atmosphere of tragedy and pain. I watch the cup of bitterness drunk to the very dregs. Sometimes I feel sick unto death. To be an eye-witness of people writhing in impotent anguish is hellish in the extreme. Face to face with the grim reality of suffering, of tragedy, and of death, the meaning and the mystery of it all cannot be thrust aside or lightly ignored.

"What is the use of it?" sobbed the girl-bride, and diseased and ravaged humanity echoes the same cry.

Cold Comfort.

Science looks upon suffering as something abnormal in the life of man. Its origin is due sometimes to foolishness, more often to ignorance. If a man deliberately, or accidentally, steps in front of a taxicab travelling at twenty miles an hour, the consequence is speedy and certain.

Similarly, if he exposes his body to vicious living he takes a risk which may ruin his health and his life. So speaks the voice of science.

But what cold comfort it brings. How unconvincing it is. If one accepts its formula, it leaves the great problem unsolved. What of mental anguish? What of the suffering of innocent children? Is it not a fact that some of the cleanest living men have been the greatest sufferers, whilst fiends in human form strut through life in health and good fortune?

In my hospital we have a children's ward, where boys and girls of tender age are domiciled. I think of one child who is suffering from cancer. Day and night with scarcely a break he is in agonising pain. This boy is eleven years of age. He has done no harm to himself or to anyone. Why should he have to suffer?

"Oh!" replies the scientist. "Have you never heard of the law of heredity? Do you not know that evil taints are transmitted from one generation to another?" What a get-out! This does not solve the mystery of the meaning of pain; it deepens it.

It is one of the cruellest and foulest blots on life's escutcheon that the innocent child should be called to pay the price of the profligacy of his forebears. No, if science has nothing more to say, we have to turn empty away.

What has religion to offer? Can the Church help us to unravel the mystery? How does it account for disease and suffering and pain? The theologian has one dogma which from my experience has never cut much ice.

Pain, the Developer.

To tell a man that he must submit meekly to whatever the fates decree is an insult to his intelligence. It shelves the question without solving the problem.

Or the theologian will say that pain is sent as a quickener of life and as a developer of character; that humanity's finest blooms are grown in the soil of suffering and strain. But suffering does not always sweeten—it sometimes sours.

Everything depends upon the person's temperament and upon the nature of this complaint. For every case the ecclesiastic can produce where suffering has ennobled and purified, I can bring another where it has hardened and embittered.

Rev. R. J. Campbell, who will deal with this question in one of his articles.

So the problem remains: one of life's unsolved riddles. I doubt if it will ever be answered without knowing what comes before life and what is to come after it.

"How can there be a God to allow such things to happen?" will continue to be asked so long as time lasts.

There is only one thing to do. Let us take life as we find it. After all, there are compensations. "What is the use of it all?" I can hear the cry now. Echo answers: "Things are never so bad but they might be worse."

"God works in a mysterious way his wonders to perform."

Spectres in the Factory

SUPPORT is here given to the "Copec" point of view on the motives that should operate in industry.

by the BISHOP OF LICHFIELD

AT the root of most of our industrial troubles is the misconception that industry is private and individual affair, whereas it is social, and the individual owners are really trustees. If an industry reacts to the hurt of the community it is not performing its right function. It is an industry with a black mark against it.

Outside the Church there are two great overwhelming factors in the lives of the people—the home and the workplace.

And the Conference on Christian Politics, Economics and Citizenship ("Copec") has revealed five *contra* facts relating to the modern industrial system. That it injures the physical life of the people; it robs them of the freedom to develop their life; it bans the beauty in the countryside; it establishes those wrong relations between men which come from hostility, mistrust and strife; it stirs up strife. That one half of the world does not know how the other half lives is a saying both trite and true. There is a great world of workers, the troubles and worries, sorrows and joys, triumphs and tragedies of whom the inhabitants of that other world of comfort and contentment do not know, much less understand. They live poles apart.

A Board of Directors may leave their extremely comfortable homes in the suburbs, hold a meeting and decide, "in the interests of economy" that "production costs" must be cut down. Labour being the chief cost in production, some of the employees are paid off while others are put on short time.

The Bishop of Lichfield

No one condemns those directors. Collectively, they act at the dictates of their business instincts; but they have never been awakened by the knowledge of what "the sack" means to a workman, his wife, children, home and future.

When the tragic touch is brought home to Boards of Directors some refrain from their methods of "reducing production costs"; there are already in existence employers who sympathetically study the best interests of their employees and do not allow their first thought to be personal acquisition.

But so long as employers sincerely believe that the primary function of industry is to make profits, then no one can blame them for acting on their beliefs.

This immoral principle reacts on the home. Women have to enter industry because the breadwinner's wages are too low on which to maintain a family. Consequently the health of the mother is undermined and the basis of family life destroyed, children being allowed to run wild and grow up minus the control of the father and the love of the mother.

In both the industrial camps is a deep-rooted sense of suspicion. The employer suspects the worker of endeavouring to get more money than he ought to get for less work than he ought to do; the workes suspects that he is being regarded a a piece of machinery.

This wretched spirit of suspicion is deplored on all sides. It is harmful to both camps. It is the greatest foe of the Trade Union movement because it is the antithesis of that spirit of conciliation and co-operation on which the principle of collective bargaining is based.

Industry, to fulfil its great function must be a co-operative effort for the service of the community. This will mean that the first charge on industry is a wage sufficient to maintain the worker and his family in comfort, dignity and health; and that industry is so organised that all those engaged in it will have an equally effective voice in those conditions of work that affect their lives.

Given those two concessions, the workers would not only work harder and longer, but would show that increase in production which is so essential at the present time to ensure national prosperity. The duty of service is obligatory on all. The labourer must labour in order that the fruits of his work may be of service to the community. The wealthy must use their wealth—be it acquired or inherited—so that their position is justified by their contribution to the common good.

Candid Communications

Outspoken Messages of Celebrities, Notorieties and, occasionally, Nonentities.

To the DUKE OF YORK,
South Africa.

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS,—You are, I see, to be President of the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley next year. May I ask you to make the post something more than an honorary title? At a word from you, there would be no repetition of the sweating of employees that disgraced the last Exhibition. And a request from you that the Exhibition should be opened on Sundays, which is the only day in the week when thousands of people can attend, would, perhaps, put a little sense into otherwise thick heads. By some such acts as these you would render invaluable service to both the Exhibition and the people.

JOHN BULL.

To the Rt. Hon. STANLEY BALDWIN, M.P.,
10, Downing Street.

DEAR PRIME MINISTER,—For many thousands of our fellow-countrymen it was a sad Christmas, owing to the grim pressure of poverty resulting from unemployment. Is the New Year going to be less "doleful" than its predecessors? This is the question the country addresses to you at the outset of 1925, and it is to be answered not in words but by deeds. As a statesman you have yet to win your spurs. Good luck to you.

JOHN BULL.

To the Rt. Hon. Sir WM. JOYNSON-HICKS, M.P.,
Home Secretary.

SIR,—You may have noticed the recent case in which a doctor, rushing to save a patient's life in a car, the licence of which had expired, was duly fined £3 by a zealous magistrate. As the defendant rightly said, "It was a case of breaking the law to serve humanity." I suggest to you, as I have suggested to your predecessors, that doctors should be exempt from the restrictions of the Motor Car Act when on urgent errands, as fire-engines and ambulances are exempt. You are about to produce amendments to the Motor Car Act. This might very properly be one of them.

JOHN BULL.

To the Rt. Hon. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN, M.P.,
Minister of Health.

SIR,—What is the use of continuing to work the Wheatley Housing Act if, at the same time you destroy its mainspring, the Wheatley Profiteering Bill? I am quite well aware of the deficiencies of this Act, but if it is to work at all—if, in fact, your own act is to work—the check on the Building Ring imposed by the Profiteering Bill is essential. Already a further rise in the cost of houses is being busily engineered. Between now and the reassembling of Parliament I trust you will give this point a great deal of thought. JOHN BULL.

To the Rt. Hon. JOHN WHEATLEY, Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons.

SIR,—Just what purpose you hope to serve by your terrific warnings of an uncontemplated war with Russia, I hardly see, unless, like the Fat Boy, of "Pickwick," you delight in making people's flesh creep. Of course to "appeal to the working classes of this country to refuse not merely to join in the attack on Russia, but to utilise the opportunity of war with Russia in an attack on British capitalism," rather gives the game away, but I fear you are busy at self-deception. JOHN BULL.

To A. A. PURCELL, Esq.
Chairman, Trade Union Congress Delegation.

SIR,—Your diatribes against the suspicion with which everyone regards your glowing accounts of the Russian Paradise, leave me quite unmoved. It is a curious fact that whenever unofficial observers go to Russia they come back singularly unimpressed with what they have seen. Whenever an official delegation goes they decide that everything in the garden is lovely. Isn't it natural that thoughts of stage-management should arise? And when official investigators lose their heads as completely as you did it is still less surprising that people should be suspicious of the value of your evidence.

JOHN BULL.

To INGLEBY ODDIE, Esq.,
Coroner, Westminster.

SIR,—Once again you have very properly protested against the laxity of medical men who sign death certificates upon mere hearsay evidence. As you say, it is high time a law was passed making it compulsory for a doctor to inspect the body before granting a certificate. The present haphazard system affords no adequate safeguard against foul play—or premature burial.

JOHN BULL.

To DAVID KIRKWOOD, Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons.

SIR,—It is not often I find myself in agreement with you, but when you say that men who are proved guilty of profiteering are criminals of the worst kind, and that you would have no compunction in hanging a few profiteers on the nearest lamp-posts, I am inclined to shake your hand. To make legitimate profits by trade is one thing. To make illegitimate profits by robbing poor of the necessities of life is another. JOHN BULL.

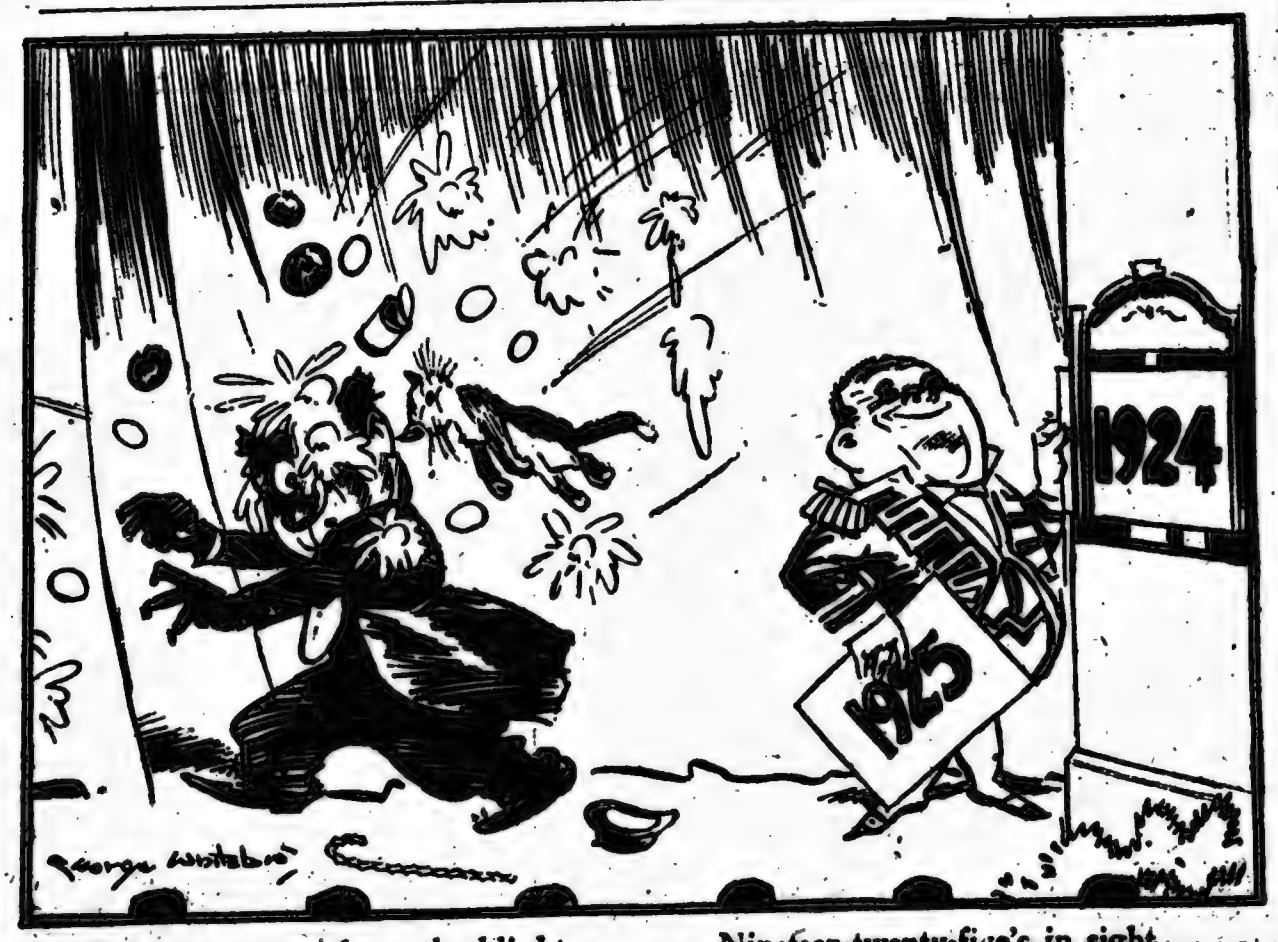
To the Rt. Hon. LORD EUSTACE PERCY,
President, Board of Education.

MY LORD,—When you have time perhaps you will endeavour to inculcate a love of reading among the young ladies and gentlemen of tomorrow. Between the covers of books they will discover the wider world which would be otherwise denied them. Why not initiate Children's Libraries? At present the public libraries cater, primarily, for the adults; the reading-room and the reference library is of no use to juveniles. It would be an excellent plan to set aside one section at each Public Library as the children's annexe where there would be a reference library and reading-rooms stocked with books suitable to maturing minds. Think it over. JOHN BULL.

To Sir ROBERT PEACOCK,
Chief Constable, Manchester.

SIR,—What is the reason for your objection to the appointment of women police? Can it be the sheer professional snobbery that wishes to retain the Force as the monopoly of men? You ought not to need telling that the experiment of women police in London has been so successful that the Home Secretary has announced his intention considerably to augment their number. There are certain duties in the performance of which women police are vastly superior to men. In dealing with solicitation and all cases concerning women and children there is no question as to the advantage of employing women officers. Your attitude is reactionary and stupid.

JOHN BULL.



Nineteen-twenty-four—the blight
Got the bird and serve him right!

Nineteen-twenty-five's in sight
Hope to goodness *he's* all right.

Straight from the Shoulder

MR. BALDWIN:—We have no mandate for Protection
Nor for Protection disguised as "Preferences" or "Safeguarding."

MR. SAKLATVALA:—We represent that section of the working-class that does not believe in continuity of policy.
You represent an addlepated section that does not know the meaning of the word "policy."

LORD HORNE:—The ex-Serviceman is not an ordinary member of the community.
That's the prevalent fallacy. Truth to tell, nearly all ordinary members of the community are ex-Servicemen.

LORD EUSTACE PERCY:—There is too little practical demand for the product of higher education.
Mainly because, up to now, higher education has not been particularly practical.

LLOYD GEORGE:—It is no use declaring war against slums while the land monopoly is allowed to rob and plunder.
Absolutely true. But why did you do nothing, time and again you had the power?

Without Fear or Favour

THE YEAR of our DREAMS

Unfair Finance

TIME was when financial investments were regarded simply as the rich man's method of getting richer. In these more democratic days the Stock Exchange interests a far wider circle. There are hundreds of small investors ready to take up shares if their denomination is not too large. It is unfortunate, therefore, that better opportunities are not given to "the little man."

The fault lies chiefly with the issuing houses, whose snobbishness prevents the small investor from taking up shares in the more favourable allotments. Too often, in public subscription lists, the applications of persons of moderate means are mysteriously shelved. The richer applicants sweep the pool.

In very many cases they are just "premium hunters," buying blocks of shares to sell again at a profit. In order to enable these rich brokers to add to their unearned riches the small man in search of a genuine investment for his savings is pushed to the wall.

But when a prospectus falls flat, then is the little man's chance! For "off-loading" purposes the small investor is welcomed.

There ought not to be this discrimination between the rich and poor investor. It is not the huge and sudden investments which are the life-blood of industry; such investments are seldom made "for keeps," but are frequently little better than market-rigging. It is the total of small but permanent investments that fertilises trade and commerce. If the Stock Exchange system is to command public respect there must be a larger measure of consideration shown to the genuine investor of modest means.

Those Resolutions!

IT was a true student of human nature who said that the path to hell was paved with good intentions. Every New Year sees its sheaf of good resolutions, kept for varying periods, yet nearly all doomed to final dishonour. Poor humanity follows the line of least resistance.

For a time we try to live up to our ideals; then some evil spirit whispers, "It isn't worth while." Compromise creeps in. We "split the difference" with our consciences.

Humanity is beset by the twin evils of moral laziness and mental dishonesty. What we need is fewer resolutions—and more resolution. If only we would give ourselves a chance we might profit by our past failures, and in an access of fresh virtue "rise on stepping-stones of our dead selves to higher things." To make one good resolution and keep it will be the best of all possible resolutions for 1925.

A Good Time Coming?

1925 opens with great hopes of a trade revival and renewed prosperity. Stable government should give us the commercial and social happiness we have looked for in vain during the past years.

THERE is something almost uncanny in pausing on the threshold of a New Year, and peering into the unknown feature. It is with a similar hopeful uncertainty that the proud father looks upon the new-born babe wondering what life holds for it. We face the New Year with anxious expectancy, trying to guess its secrets. Will 1925 be the golden year of our dreams?

Certainly there is ground for solid hope. This New Year is full of rich promise; pregnant with possibilities of good. With all its faults and failures, 1924 was an improvement on its predecessors, and the record of the past twelve months augurs well for the New Year. Optimism is justified. On every hand are signs of encouragement; socially, industrially, and politically the signs are favourable. Many stubborn obstacles have been overcome.

Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, President B.O.T.

Whatever defects the new Government may possess it has one important virtue. It is firmly based on the popular will. Our political choice is made, and the Government has a free hand to grapple with social ills.

The sense of security thus spread abroad is already reflected in an upward tendency of the industrial curve. Capital is leaving the vaults where, in the troublous times, it lay in hiding, and is beginning to function normally as the motive power of industry. The effect on prosperity will soon be seen.

BEFORE long the blast furnaces will be relighted, while the factories hum with activity, and a thousand idle mills are touched into new life. Shipyards, docks, and warehouses, the country over, will recapture the energy of the boom years. Capital has regained its confidence. New financial strength has been infused into the nerve-centres of industrial life.

The immediate results should be a more prosperous and contented people; happier, healthier homes; brighter lives.

Only one thing can spoil this happy New Year. Industry is finding its feet again, making ready to march forward in the path of prosperity. For a little while, however, it will need the indulgence and consideration which is always extended to recovering invalids.

The people of Britain must decide here and now whether they intend to help British industry to recover its former splendours, or whether while its steps are still a shade uncertain, they will again bludgeon it to the ground.

ILL-CONSIDERED industrial action in the next month or two will be such a bludgeon stroke. The Trade Union leaders have a great responsibility and a great opportunity. By wise tactics in this critical year they have it in their power to end the lean years of want and usher in the fat years of plenty. Assuming, as we do, that the people will reject the counsel of the hot-heads and line up alongside those who are resolved to make 1925 realise its high promise, we confidently predict that "there's a good time coming."

When it comes it will include all in its kindly embrace; men will be conscious once again of the dignity of manhood; women will be their joyous comrades.

The Crime "Wave"

THERE is no need to get too alarmed about the "cat" burglars. The "crime wave" theory, beloved of certain newspapers, has not much foundation in fact. Actually the number of recent burglaries has been no greater than is usually reported at this season of the year.

There is one conclusion, however, which may legitimately be drawn from the cold statistics of Scotland Yard. Our present-day criminal punishments do not prevent crime.

Penal servitude has not abolished burglary. We take vengeance on the criminal, but there is no evidence that we cure him of his wickedness and folly. We have not even begun to wean the wrongdoer from the evil of his ways.

The true purpose of punishment is preventive. Has it yet been attained?

This question need not lead us to maudlin or sentimental conclusions. The burglar preys on fear—especially women's fears. In nine cases out of ten he is nothing but a low-down bully, who has made his bullying pay.

To sentence a rascal of this description to twenty-one months' hard labour, with free food and shelter, is no real punishment at all. A sharp taste of the "cat" would be far more likely to cure his bullying propensities, and to deter others from following his example.

Mere vengeance is never justifiable, but the State is entitled to impose such punishments as are best calculated to protect the weak and defenceless, and to inspire evildoers with a wholesome terror of the law.

Life's Little Jokes

NOT long ago Judge Hargreaves of the Brentford County Court arrived at the Savoy Chapel to be married, but the lawyer had not complied with the law, and so the ceremony had to be postponed. Life is full of such ironies. Occasionally they are amusing, generally tragic.

The children of the toy-makers of the East End of London had no toys in their Christmas stockings. Their mothers had worked long hours to make the gadgets of fun that caused Christmas morning to be full of children's laughter, but for the toy-makers' kiddies there were no toys.

In Northampton are to be found the worst shod men in England. Official statistics prove that there is more deformity of the feet through ill-fitting shoes among the workers of Northampton than anywhere else. The shoemakers cannot afford shoes.

Hundreds of girls spend sleepless nights gnawed by the pangs of hunger. They are the café waitresses of our great cities. What an irony!

A Gunpowder Plot

WILL there be another war? Europe to-day is more firmly in the grip of the armaments ring than ever before. France cannot pay her debts, but she has the money to build up the strongest air force in the world

by A. G. GARDINER

Rt. Hon. Austen Chamberlain. Foreign Secretary.

I THINK the most important thing the country wants to hear of from Mr. Baldwin is what he is going to do about the Gunpowder Plot. I do not, of course, refer to the affair commemorated in the crackers of November 5. Guy Faux is dead, but the Gunpowder Plot goes on. It not only goes on: it has become the biggest fact in the world. Compared with Guy Faux's trumpery affair, the Gunpowder Plot of to-day is like the Matterhorn to Primrose Hill.

And the trouble is that while Guy Faux's Plot was a "dud" affair, the Gunpowder Plot of our time is never a "dud." It is warranted to "go off." It cannot help "going off." And each time it "goes off" the mischief it does becomes greater. The explosion which took place in 1914 was the biggest beyond all comparison the world has ever seen. Every country is still heaving with the convulsion.

THE next? But there's to be no "next," you say. We have had the "war to end war," and the witnesses of that fact are in the cenotaph in Whitehall, in the thousand memorials that are scattered over town and village, not in this country only but in every country. Yes, but these things only symbolise our hopes. What of the reality?

Is the Gunpowder Plot vanquished, or is it only smouldering? Is the volcano under us extinct, or is it only quiescent, preparing for another explosion compared with which the last will be a mere Christmas cracker? Let us face the facts. *It is not what we wish that matters, but what we are doing.*

What are we doing? What is the world doing? Before answering this question, let us be clear in our minds on one point. Firearms are made to "go off." Gunpowder Plots are invented to "go off." Competitive armaments are designed to compete. They have no other meaning. If we lived in a rude state of society, like a mining camp after a gold rush, and each of us carried a six-shooter in his hip-pocket, the best intentions in the world would not prevent our six-shooters going off.

AND countries are only individuals in the mass. If they carry six-shooters they will fire them. They will not rely upon the law: they will rely upon shooting first and shooting straightest. They will rely on their aeroplanes being better and their poison gas more poisonous than their enemy's. Let us clear our minds of the cant that "If you would have peace, prepare for war." Let us accept the contrary and indisputable truth that "If you prepare for war, you will have war." If you make Gunpowder Plots you will have explosions.

Now the plain fact is that the world is to-day one great Gunpowder Plot. The preparations for the next war are proceeding on a scale that has never been equalled. In 1913 the annual expenditure upon armaments in Europe was four hundred and twenty-five millions. To-day Great Britain alone is spending on armaments one hundred and thirty-one millions, nearly one-third of the whole European expenditure of 1913. The armaments expenditure of Germany and her allies has been compulsorily reduced by eighty millions, yet that for the rest of Europe is one hundred and twenty millions higher than in 1913.

IN every country the one industry that never pauses is the Gunpowder Plot. In every country new engines of destruction are being designed. In every country the ablest chemists are engaged by the Governments on the invention of more powerful explosives and more deadly gases. France cannot afford to pay us a penny of the six hundred millions she borrowed from us during the war, but she has the money to build up an aerial force more powerful than that of all the rest of Europe, to develop her Navy on a scale never attempted before and to lend millions of money to cover Central and Eastern Europe with a network of military systems.

Even the United States is deep in the Plot. Col. Walsh, Chief of the Ordnance Department, has announced that the new engines of warfare designed by his department include a 4,000-lb. aerial bomb, containing 2,000 lb. of explosives and capable of making craters 150 ft. in diameter and 57 ft. deep; a caterpillar tractor that can make thirty miles an hour on a forty-five degree grade and go through water up to the driver's chin; and a gun that will shoot nearly five miles farther than the best French guns in the war.

This is what is going on all over the world. Everywhere the mines are being carefully laid, the gunpowder is being secreted, the faggots are being piled up and the train is being laid in readiness for the next lighted match that will send our civilisation in a cloud-storm to the sky.

And we want to know what Mr. Baldwin means to do about it. Are he and his Government going to join in the Plot or work against the Plot? They must be one side or the other. Good intentions are hot air if they are not backed by good works. Are they going to throw their weight on the side of disarmament or are they going to stoke the fires of competitive armaments? That is the question that transcends all others.

Let us apply one single test. What is their attitude to the Armaments Trusts and the private manufacture of armaments? Will they go into the Conference on Disarmament to support the infamy or to destroy it? If we do not stop this international traffic for the exploitation of war we do not mean business.

EUROPE is to-day more firmly in the grip of the armaments rings than it was in 1913. These rings are international in their operation. Their business is to prepare for war and promote war. They are knit together regardless of nationality. Their one common object, whether they be French or English, is to throw the world in a blaze.

Will Mr. Baldwin go into the Conference to stop this hideous private trade in slaughter or will he give his sanction to its continuance? It is the acid test of his sincerity.

By the way he passes it we shall know whether he wants the Gunpowder Plot to go on to the inevitable catastrophe or is determined to stake his future on the defeat of that terrific conspiracy against mankind.

THE LIVER

Is the workhouse a paradise of bricks?

THE poor people's horror of the workhouse is perhaps not so intense nowadays, but though it is happily true that our Poor Law system has been vastly humanised since Dickens stirred the people to righteous wrath by exposing its cruelties, one still may question the proud boast lately made to a Royal Commission that "the Poor Law is becoming tremendously popular"!

It is a curious coincidence that the same idea occurred to the "very sage, deep, philosophical men" who were good enough to act as Guardians of the Poor even in Dickens' time. They also found with regard to the workhouse that "the poor liked it," that they regarded it as "a regular place of public entertainment . . . a tavern where there was nothing to pay, a public breakfast, dinner, tea, and supper all the year round, a brick and mortar Elysium where it was all play and no work."

So those wise men, fearing to demoralise the common people by over-indulgence," established the rule that all poor people should have the alternative of being starved by a gradual process in the House, or by a quick one out of it." And even now, as was shown the other day at an inquest on a poor old jobbing gardener at Herne Hill, there are persons who prefer to starve outside. "I cannot get a job," that old man had written; "I have walked miles and have no money for rent again. I can't sleep. I am down."

His landlady entreated him to go to the workhouse. But he wouldn't. Rather than trust his starved and weary old body to the tender mercies of the "tremendously popular" Elysium, he chose instead to commit suicide with a horribly painful poison. "Temporary insanity" of course.

This sort of insanity appears to have been "temporary" through all the days and years since Betty Higden told how "the worn out old people who come down to that, are driven from post to pillar and pillar to post a-purpose to tire them out . . . . how they grow heartsick of it, and give it up and die for want of help." That frequently harsh, and sometimes brutal system of "driving" by unsympathetic officials, still drives many a shrinking applicant for relief to sell her body to feed her children.

"Tremendously popular!" It evidently is not an effect of the casual ward's tremendous popularity that leads homeless Out-of-works to neglect its Elysian comforts for the rain, fog,

A Strange Luncheon

THE conduct of our people in "high places" would seem to indicate that we are not taking life seriously. The money of our greatest enemy finds its way into the pocket of a British statesman, and his food is consumed by British gentlemen

by

"A GENTLEMAN WITH A DUSTER"

William Randolph Hearst, American Newspaper Owner.

CERTAIN people, whose opinion is worth knowing, are much exercised over a luncheon party which recently took place in London. The hostess was Mrs. Hearst, wife of Britain's most bitter and unscrupulous enemy in the United States of America, and among the guests were some of our leading statesmen.

That Mr. Lloyd George should be of the company takes no one by surprise, for he has long been a contributor, and, we believe, a very lavishly paid contributor, to the septic columns of the Hearst Press; but what were the reasons that took Lord Balfour of Whittingehame to that table, and what moved Mr. Winston Churchill, Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer, to accept such highly questionable hospitality?

During the great struggle which this country waged with Kaiserism and Prussianism, Mr. Hearst did everything in his power to blacken the character of Britain in the eyes of America, and went so wickedly far in this business that the people of Canada refused to let his newspapers cross the frontier. But for his malign influence, America would surely have condemned in 1914 the violation of Belgium territory, and by plain speaking to Germany, after her defeat at the Marne, brought the war to an end.

LET all those who lost sons, fathers and husbands in the long struggle with the Central Powers calculate the share of Mr. Hearst in the agony, the ruin, and the threatening in solvency of European civilisation.

Yet the money of this man discharges the bill for a luncheon eaten by some of the most eminent of our statesmen, while his wife receives not merely their cordial handshakes, but their smiles and blandishments. Nor is the thing done secretly. Next day the fashion columns of a daily newspaper flourish a list of Mrs. Hearst's guests in the face of public opinion.

Is this a small matter, to be smiled at and dismissed as a thing of no great consequence one way or the other? Or is it an event which thinking people will ponder over as a symptom of something radically wrong and dangerously unwholesome in our social life? For myself, I am strongly of the opinion of those who regard it as a serious matter and desire that some public protest should be registered on the subject.

TOLERANCE has gone far beyond the limits of safety in the modern world. Like all other virtues, unless founded upon moral principle, it can easily pass into the excesses of vice. Look about you, and everywhere you will discern this virtue of tolerance loosening the moral bonds of civilised society, preying on the vitals of moral character, and corrupting the whole domestic life of civilised mankind. To take life seriously is now regarded as the conduct of fanaticism. To be scrupulous is to be bigoted. To be ruled by moral principles is to be narrow-minded and puritanical.

In the Robinson case Lord Halsbury, counsel for the Robinsons, referred to a certain public ball and said that it was one of those occasions on which introductions are unnecessary. That is to say there are occasions in our modern life, sanctioned by aristocracy, when any cosmopolitan blackguard who chances to be in London can go boldly up to a British girl and introduce himself without infringing the laws of good manners. We tolerate a state of things which permits a blackmailer, a pimp, or a procurer to ogle and edge his way into acquaintance with British ladies, and a state of things which permits strumpets and kept-women to dance on the same floor and to sit down at the same supper-table with girls fresh from the nursery.

Such a state of things seems to me characteristic of modern civilisation. It accounts for the increasing humbug in Party politics which sickens every honest man in the country, for the monstrous liberty enjoyed by financial crooks in the City of London, for the vile taste of the public in literature and art, and for the popular tendency to regard all forms of religion as superstition. In a word, existence is regarded as a spree, and no one is to be too scrupulous about his friends, his opinions, his habits, or his consistency.

IN a different direction we may see this same virtue of tolerance eating into the sound judgment and the healthy instincts of the present generation of British people. Few dramatists in these days are more sure of an audience than Mr. Bernard Shaw, and few newspapers ever see the light of day that do not pay some homage to his talents. Yet this Irishman who lives prosperously in our midst, and who has never taken a man's part in the struggles of his own country, over and over again has gone out of his way to hold our nation up to the contempt of the world, and like some malicious monkey has attributed to our statesmen intentions likely to involve us in quarrels with other nations.

That he has violated every canon of good taste in his auto-publicity campaign, counts for nothing in the judgment of modern Englishmen. His wit, which cannot hold a candle to the wit of Sheridan, and will be found utterly tedious ten years from now, is supposed to atone for all his sins, and he enjoys, but with great honour, the same measure of liberty which we grant to alien enemies in our midst whose central object is to disrupt and destroy the British Empire.

SUCH tolerance as this is not to be mistaken for a sign of proud physical strength; it is much more an indication of moral indifference. It means that we don't care about taking life too seriously. Like Mr. Shaw himself we are all jokers and clowns. Mr. Hearst's money finds its way into the pocket of a British statesman who is always sure of attracting vast audiences, and Mr. Hearst's food finds its way into the stomachs of British gentlemen who seemed to us but the other day to regard Germany as the enemy of man's soul. Only a few people are shocked. The popularity of these people is unaffected. Away we go laughing and jazzing to the next sensation.

But, unless we rigorously maintain certain standards of conduct, and unless we act as if evolution has a definitely moral goal, we are bound to reduce human existence to a chaos and become as impotent for the purposes of God as the Nihilists of Russia or the lunatics of Bedlam.

OF SHAME

by ALEX. M. THOMPSON ("Dangle")

or bitter cold of a seat on the Embankment. The casual ward has been vastly improved since I described its conditions thirty years ago, but its tremendous popularity has not yet led connoisseurs to prefer it to the Ritz.

I have a pile of letters and newspaper cuttings on my desk relating instances of how the Poor Law operates. They tell how vegetables grown by workhouse inmates have been allowed to rot rather than that the "paupers" should become swollen with conceit by relaxation of their meagre dietary.

They tell how men are refused leave to go out and seek work. There is a statement that at Newcastle men were housed worse than the workhouse pigs—and made to sleep on benches — which charge was answered by the Vice-Chairman of the Guardians with the indignant but carcely satisfying explanation that "they had lankets to lie upon." There is a long st of casual wards where men, after a long ay's tramp in bitter winter weather, are made to pend the night in unheated wards, with no ove or open fire, sometimes on a plank or a rug the floor, without any sort of night apparel, to eep either naked or in wet and verminous clothes!

In the case of professional loafers, such treatment need not excite our anger, though even in their case it would surely be more sensible to drop them into a bath, provide them with dry cleanliness, and compel them to pay for their accommodation with a spell of genuine hard work.

But what about the others, the willing artisans, wandering through cities for opportunity not to beg or cadge, but to earn means to fill the hungry bellies of their children?

And the worn out or broken down old soldiers of industry—why should these makers of Britain's wealth and power—be treated in their old age as if a life of honest industry had been a disgrace? Why should they be put into a livery of shame and robbed in their old age of the respect due to their long service to the State? We don't regard a pensioned Lord Chancellor as a "pauper."

Incidentally, statistical authority says that for every 5s. spent in maintaining a pauper, we spend 33s. 6d. to keep an officer to supervise him. "If a pension of 15s. a week were available at sixty-five," writes a workhouse inmate, "not many would remain in the workhouse."

Here, as always, the plain way of commonsense and decency would seem to coincide with the way of economy.

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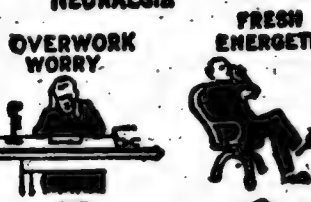

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19187.—Leading London Hospital (Secretary): "After a careful test we find Yeast-Vite as claimed and very satisfactory. We are now quite willing to purchase supplies."
1123.—"I am a hospital trained nurse, very anaemic. The tablets have done me a lot of good and improved me so."
19669.—Diocesan for Befriending Girls: "I am using them for my girls with great success. One very delicate girl gained 4 lbs. in one week. I find them an excellent tonic."
22207.—"I am suffering with Diabetes, and have been doctoring without relief until I tried Yeast-Vite. I have had only one box and already feel a new woman."
21234.—"I was miserable, irritable, and nervous, but thanks to Yeast-Vite I am better in every way. Please publish this and let the public know how much good they have done me."
19297.—"I suffered with stomach trouble for years, but thanks to Yeast-Vite I am entirely cured. I have recommended them to many friends and they all speak highly of them."
21697.—"Suffering with nerves and general run-down conditions, I tried lots of medicines, without relief. I tried Yeast-Vite, and can assure you that I feel 100 per cent. better."
19629.—"They are the most wonderful cure in the world. For years I have suffered with bilious headaches but have not had one since."
1703.—"I used to feel so tired and old after doing housework I had to lie down. Since taking the tablets I take a brisk walk instead. Please send a box to Dr. ——, Guy's Hospital. He is much impressed with my improvement and wishes to try them."
16969.—"I awoke feeling sick, weary and nervy. Took 2 tablets and soon felt absolutely different—a most wonderful change."
19429.—"I feel it my duty to let you know how excellent they are in removing my nervousness and depression."
19321.—"I thank you for your wonderful remedy and my nurse also takes them. They are a real pick-me-up and help us to carry on."
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16613.—"Am pleased to let you know that several of my patients have secured benefit from them."
11629.—"Send by return post, as I cannot be without them. I suffer so with indigestion and they relieve me immediately."
19429.—"They are a splendid tonic, and they did me a great amount of good. I have been suffering from nerves since I left the Army four years ago."
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MODERN JEKYLL-and-HYDE

THERE are people who are unaware of their own criminal tendencies, says the writer, who advocates "treatment," not punishment, for criminals

by H. D. JENNINGS WHITE, M.A.
(The eminent psychologist)

HOW often are criminal acts and immoral tendencies due to wrong-mindedness instead of wrong-heartedness? It has been discovered that a very large proportion of the offences against law and decency are the result of mental "kinks"—twists of the mind which impel actions that are quite foreign to the normal nature of the offender. I am convinced that many a man who has been sent to prison should have been sent to a mental specialist.

Prof. Sigmund Freud, the originator of the psycho-analytic method of treatment of criminals.

A gentleman in an honourable profession suffered from uncontrollable influences. He had been most cruel to animals, committed indecency and hated women to the point of murder. He stole money and goods from shops, and set light to sheds and houses.

But although he had committed innumerable offences against morality and the law, he was really a kind-hearted man.

He might have been detected and brought to justice any number of times and suffered, in addition to the punishment of the law, the ostracism of society. But it was apparent that his lapses were abnormal: they were due to mental rather than moral defect.

He was accordingly given mental treatment, with the result that all his evil tendencies have disappeared and he is now a happy husband and father, doing excellent work in his profession.

Let me mention another typical case. A Government employee suffered from a wicked desire to make himself objectionable to girls. His method was to ride a bicycle along quiet country lanes until he met a suitable victim. Then he would stop, commit the offence and immediately jump on his bicycle.

He was very much ashamed of this and suffered torments from harbouring this secret sin. But his mind got worse, until he was unable to ride in trains and 'buses, and eventually he was unable to leave his house. His symptoms became so alarming and crippling that he sought the usual medical help, which proved unavailing.

AT length, however, he was given mental treatment with the effect of correcting this strange and unnatural bias. He is now able to go about without any immoral desires. Some time ago he became married: the marriage has turned out quite happily, and his children are perfectly normal.

Such criminal tendencies as stealing, burning, violence, suicide, and murder have their roots in early childhood, and may be carried throughout life as a regrettable and sometimes uncontrollable obsession. There are even people who are unaware of their own criminality.

It often happens that a patient seeks help from a mental specialist over some trouble and in the course of treatment becomes aware of his own criminal impulses. Sometimes quite moral people are shocked to discover their other criminal and lustful self hidden within them.

The redemption of Mr. Hyde is the aim of true mental treatment. The character is taken to bits and then put together in a way that transforms Mr. Hyde into a Dr. Jekyll.

People with ill-balanced nervous systems—neurotics—often punish themselves unwittingly far more severely than any Law Court would have punished them if they had been found out. To end once and for all some compelling tendencies they may even commit suicide.

Not so long ago a judge in a very high position and renowned for his strict and virtuous life, was found shot. On his writing-table lay a note, stating that he had sinned, judged and executed himself.

Punishment, if it changes the criminal at all, changes him for the worse. At present we treat all criminals by very much the same method: varying the treatment in intensity and duration, but not much in kind. We need greater facilities for the intensive study and treatment of *individuals*. Thus we shall be able to discriminate between different types of criminals who need different kinds of treatment.

ONLY a few weeks ago Mr. Justice Lush found a young man guilty of an offence punishable by a long term of penal servitude, but bound him over under Dr. Gilbert Scott, who undertook to administer mental treatment. Dr. Scott considers that nearly half the men with criminal instincts can be cured by such treatment.

At present there are clinics for bodily diseases which are primarily caused by mental conditions; but there is not to my knowledge any clinic specially for moral diseases which are caused by mental conditions

Born Amid Tears

Morality for the Poor?

by ROSE WITCOP

'T is not so very long ago that the theory of birth control was regarded by the great majority the public as something on a par th witchcraft—if not worse. Birth ntrol is now, however, regarded as beneficent science as a result of higher regard for the purpose of arriage; a better conception of e value of human life.

It is now no longer a question as whether birth control is right or rong—it is agreed now that children ould not be born into the world erely as the result of passion, but at their birth should be governed the domestic circumstances of e parents. What is left to be ercome is the attitude of mind ich protests against the knowledge ing put within reach of the working-ss mother.

The Church is strenuous in its position to the spread of knowge. This is interesting because Church bases its objection on ral grounds; the Church preaches that birth control is wrong and that children should be born "for the glory of God."

When the Church affirms that birth control is immoral it is libelling many devout Christians who readily perceive that it is a glory to no one—human or divine—for children to be brought into the world to experience the horror of hunger because of being a glut on the market.

The Church claims that morality is built up on self-sacrifice. For the wealthy there is no necessity to control birth—they have the means to support a large family. It is, therefore, only the poor woman from whom the Church expects this self-sacrifice.

It is not in sacrifice of the normal sex instincts that the basis of true morality is found. It is in knowledge. And hitherto the working mother has been kept in the most complete ignorance of the facts of motherhood; she knows little of the wonderful mechanism of her own body.

The Church refuses to face the fact that child-rearing is an economic matter. For the average woman an additional child means privation and distress for herself and family, and it is because the wealthy *are* wealthy they can afford both to have large families and to buy the knowledge relating to the prevention of large families.

I want to see that the poor harassed working mother is provided with physiological knowledge so that she does not make her life a misery by bringing unnecessary children into the world.

While the Church says in one breath, "God does not intend His children to live in conditions to which modern civilisation has reduced many of them," with the next breath it denies to the poor mother the knowledge that will ensure that God's will is not frustrated. This is neither moral nor honest.

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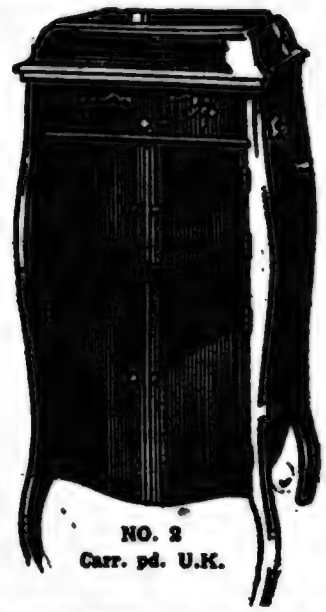

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Human Documents.

A Teacher who Sinned

And Other Intensely Human Stories and Problems from Real Life

PROBLEMS that may be yours are dealt with by "Humanist." In every case the name and address of the writer are suppressed so that the authors may not be identified. In cases that are too intimate or are not of sufficient interest to be helpful to others, correspondents must send stamped addressed envelopes if they wish to be answered through the post. Ten shillings is sent to each of the writers of the first four letters printed.

"WHEN I was a young student at school I was so troubled with nerves that I was always very lowly placed in the examination lists, although in the ordinary class work I usually did remarkably well. Through this failing I found myself at the age of thirty an uncertificated member of the teaching profession, which I had always intended to follow.

"Then came the war, and with it a commission in the Army. Promotion for me followed rapidly, so that at the Armistice I had to relinquish a comfortable berth as major.

"It was the high standard of my living during the war period that led me into temptation. I had a wife and four young children to think of, and I looked forward with dismay to the meagre pittance I would receive as a poorly qualified teacher. I took the risk of posing as a fully fledged university man and accepted a post in a secondary school.

"For five years this pretence earned for me and mine a fairly satisfactory livelihood, but then, for some reason unknown to me, the governors demanded my credentials, and my duplicity was discovered. I was dismissed on the spot.

"For twelve months I have done my level best to keep the wolf from the door by working as a casual labourer, but the struggle is indeed a hard one, for I have a very poor physique. The present much overcrowded state of the teaching profession gives little hope to men who are fully trained and tested, so what prospect have I, without references and diplomas, of being engaged by any Education Authority? I feel I cannot keep up this struggle much longer and would be so grateful for your advice."

"Humanist" says:—*The advantage of being an educated man is that it should give you a serene and philosophic courage in the hour of difficulty. Play the game in the future: it is the best way to take the sting out of past memories and regrets. Try to get a better job—and remember that when a man is down the future is all his.*

Unhappy Marriage

"TWELVE years ago I fell in love with a man who was already married to a vicious, jealous woman. He had been married in his youth and had spent years of bitter unhappiness. He tried to get on in life, but his wife's one idea was to see her husband in the gutter.

"The 'way out' never came for either of them until the war. Then he joined the army, and swore he would never go back to her. He never did. He has made his wife an allowance all these years, but they will never live together again.

"Now, after twelve years of devotion to each other, we have come to realise we cannot go on like this for ever. We both want a home together—but it cannot be without marriage.

"Since leaving his wife my lover has risen rapidly, and now holds a very responsible position, and is very well thought of by his employers. He could keep me in comfort and still continue his allowance, whilst now I have to work very hard.

"Do you think the laws will ever help such unhappily married couples to re-marry? Would you advise us to wait a few years longer, or go all out for a divorce, though I'm afraid the lady would never give her husband the satisfaction of freedom."

"Humanist" says:—*I do not think there is much prospect of any immediate alteration in the marriage laws that will meet a case like yours. These laws are intended to protect the rights which accrue to the parties on marriage. I sympathise with you in your position, which is certainly not your fault.*

Tangled Love

"MANY years ago my father deserted my mother and went away with a married woman. I was too young to understand the position, and for a long time believed that my mother was a widow. Both my parents are now dead and I earn my living as a teacher. Recently at a friend's house I met a man with whom I became very friendly, and we are now engaged to be married.

"Now I have received a letter from him in which he says that his father, on learning my name, declares I must be the daughter of the man who ran away with his wife, and that in no circumstances whatever will he sanction his son's engagement. Moreover, if his son continues his friendship with me, he will have no more to do with him.

"What are we to do? My fiance says he is willing to give up everything for me—but am I justified in allowing him to make this sacrifice, to say nothing of the suffering I shall unwittingly be bringing upon his father?"

"Humanist" says:—*If you and your fiance love each other, you are entitled to marry and enjoy the happiness you have not forfeited through any act of yours. He may do well in business on his own account, and his father may relent. But those are risks for him. If he is willing to take them and there is no other way out, you are not bound to prevent him.*

Maternal Instinct

"I HAVE been married three years, during which time my husband and I have been extremely happy. However, my happiness has recently seemed greatly marred owing to the fact that my greatest wish, that of having a little one, has not been fulfilled.

"My husband is thirty-five and I am twenty-four, and we are both very healthy, but he persistently urges that times are too bad to bring a little one into the world. True, his salary only amounts to £145 a year, but he is a tradesman, and his mother (now seventy-five years old) promises him, as her only child and relative, a fairly substantial sum at her death; whilst my own parents are always ready to help us.

—"Wouldn't it be more worthy of us to do our share than to shrink from our duty?"

"Humanist" says:—*Yes—I think you should have a child. That is a natural instinct. Don't wait till you are an old woman and your husband an older man. Nature is often the best of guides. If we follow her, we are on safe ground.*

A Brother's Difficulty.

"My elder brother is a great disappointment to me. He has just got engaged to a charming girl, who does not know that he drinks and gambles. Is it my duty to warn her?"

If he still does these things, now that he is engaged, I think the girl ought to know. But if he has turned over a new leaf, it would be wrong to take away his only chance of real happiness.

Pleasant Saturdays.

"I have always been a keen follower of football, but now that I am married, my wife thinks I ought to take her out on Saturday afternoons instead of going to football matches. She says I am selfish. Is she right?"

Not if you take her out at other times. You must think of her pleasures as well as your own. Do this and she will not grudge you your Saturday afternoons.

Under False Pretences.

"I am a domestic servant, and I was in love with a man who, I thought, was honest. The house was burgled last week, and I'm sure he was concerned in the affair, as I have not seen him since. Must I report my suspicions to my mistress?"

I think you should. You may be the means of saving others from the base deception you have yourself suffered.

Lonely Mother.

"A widow, in order to provide for myself and little girl, aged six, I have been compelled to accept a lowly-paid post as shop-girl in one of the numerous branches of a well-known firm dealing in cheap goods, but the remuneration is so small that it is quite insufficient for our need. Friendless and alone in the world—I feel that under such circumstances straight dealing is a fool's game. There are avenues to better living—by theft and things far worse. What do you say?"

That honesty is the best policy. If you go wrong to earn a little money you will regret it all the rest of your life. Think of your little girl—and look for a better paid job

Words Winged to Women

A FULL TIME JOB

Should Woman Stay at Home?

by
SYBIL THORNDIKE

THE question is often asked, "Can a woman properly fulfil her duties as wife and mother if, after marriage, she continues to follow some other career?" And the answer that most naturally arises to the lips is, "It all depends upon the woman."

Miss Sybil Thorndike, the actress, herself a mother and a worker.

Such an answer, however, is only begging the question; so many serious issues hang upon our solution of this problem that it is well to give it serious thought.

In the first place perhaps the largest percentage of wage-earning women are factory workers and mill-hands, and in the North there is seldom any thought of a woman giving up her economic independence merely because she marries. That may be good or bad.

It cannot be for the best if it means that when a family arrives the children lack the care they would otherwise have if the mother was not also the breadwinner. But it is Hobson's choice for thousands of these workers. Work for women is easy to obtain, even when their menfolk fail to find employment.

It is only when we come to the ranks of professional women that the controversy becomes heated. It is alleged that the insistence on the part of modern woman to pursue an independent career is a prolific source of domestic unhappiness. The accusation is worthless, but since many people do hold this view it is worth while disputing.

WHAT is really happening is that modern woman does not want to sink the whole of her personality into that of her husband. She is an individual with opinions, characteristics and temperament. She does not want entirely to be merged—a truth far from relished by those who still cling to the Eastern view of woman's complete subjection.

Those who can read correctly the signs of the times are certainly able to deny that this development of woman's personality tends to domestic unhappiness. A woman with strongly developed personality, alive and active in the world of affairs, is much more likely to be a real helpmeet and companion to her husband than a helpless creature whose only ambition is to be a "clinging vine."

The woman of fully developed powers and personality is more likely to be a good mother in every sense of of the word than one whose powers are dulled by constant subjection to other people's judgment. Such a woman may be trusted to decide for herself whether she will continue the career she has mapped out for herself.

Mostly it tends enormously to the welfare of her children if she does. She can help other women by paying for assistance in the drudgery of housekeeping, she can help to give the children a thoroughly good start in life. Knowing the difficulties and dangers of the world from actual, personal experience, her children are likely to be guarded by knowledge imparted by her, and saved from many of its pitfalls.

When all is said and done it has to be acknowledged that marriage inevitably effects the lives of both who enter into the relationship, but there does not seem to be any real or adequate reason why the woman's status in life should be the only one to be altered.

IF other things are equal, if the way seems reasonably open, and a married woman wishes to continue a career in addition to and outside her home, by all means she should do it. Surely it makes for national efficiency and intelligence where the women of the race develop fully independence and personality.

Only through such mothers will the coming generation be the sort of children we want.

Sybil Thorndike

ow to Keep Well

Why be Fat?

It's Easy to be Slim!

by **A WIMPOLE STREET PHYSICIAN**

THERE is no need to be fat. But the present craze for slimness among fashionable would-be fashionable women is of the most stupid and unhealthy crazes—almost as stupid as idea of wearing india-rubber contraptions to take a few inches off circumference.

It works—of course it works—as wearing a couple of sweaters plugging along the roads outside market takes pounds off a jockey. makes the wearer sweat the nds off.

wonder how the Mayfair lady feels n she is taking off her dripping ber brassiere, and rubber corset, rubber hip-belt!

's all so silly and unnecessary. body who is fat can get slim. he best way to do it is to begin ually, and don't do more than cessary to reduce the superfluous ht.

y whether exercise alone will do nd by exercise one doesn't mean nt exercise at irregular intervals.

these days of Tubes and 'buses verywhere most people don't nearly enough. A brisk walk couple of miles a day, in a person customed to exercise, should begin to reduce the weight: if that isn't enough, walk a little farther—but don't overdo it and get fatigued.

If regular exercise isn't enough, then one has recourse to dieting.

The famous fat man of a century ago, George Cheyne, reduced himself to ordinary proportions from thirty-two stones by dieting alone. You can do the same—if you want to.

Most people eat too much anyhow. Eating too much and drinking too much causes a high blood-pressure, which—in various ways—kills many men in their prime.

THE sugars, starches, and fats in food are what make for fat in the bodily tissues. The rules for dieting, therefore, are simple ones: Cut out the sugars, starches, and fats; take liquids only two hours after food, and in small quantity.

Don't do it all at once; first of all, stop all eating and drinking between meals. If that isn't enough, cut out all sugars—and then starchy foods.

The starches, however, include two of the most important foods, namely, bread and potatoes: it is, perhaps, wiser, therefore, not to exclude bread absolutely, but to eat a small quantity daily in the form of toast or whole-meal bread—or unsweetened biscuits make good substitutes. Rice and other similar starchy milk puddings must also be banned.

THE foods that can be taken include lean meat, fish, milk, salads and fresh fruits—lots of the last two, for their bulk helps to make the meals seem larger and so assuages hunger.

Beer and other malt liquors must be cut out of the dietary: tea and coffee are all right—unsweetened—and, if you are accustomed to alcohol and want it, a little whisky and soda.

Don't believe the yarns that people tell you about cures for stoutness: acids make you thinner only by upsetting the digestion, and thyroid gland extract is a potent, and, in large doses, a dangerous drug, and only useful when the stoutness is a sort of disease.

In a few exceptional cases obesity is a disease: there are very few individuals who cannot be cured by dieting.

But I am not writing for them: theirs is an obscure disorder of the internal gland secretions, and a physician's affair.

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This dainty fashion shoe has the style and quality of one costing at least a guinea in any good retail shoe shop.

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If you are not perfectly pleased with your purchase, your money will be refunded.

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Give full particulars. State size usually worn (or trace outline of stockinged foot on paper with pencil held upright). Include cost of postage, and do not forget to mention model number of shoe.

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Special Offer to "John Bull" Readers.

Elasto is an entirely new treatment which permanently cures **Swollen Legs, Varicose Ulcers, Inflamed Wounds, Varicose Eczema,** and all troubles generally known as "Bad Legs."

There is no awkward bandaging, or uncomfortable elastic stocking, no cutting out of the veins, or having to rest, no pain to be endured, or drugs to be taken; but just tiny, tasteless, harmless tablets to be dissolved upon the tongue.

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Elasto restores a natural ingredient to the blood which enables the body to make elastic fibre. With this material the veins and muscles win back their elastic action, and are again enabled to perform their duty in correct blood circulation. You see, it is quite different from the usual treatment.

No Need Now to Suffer.

Do not suffer any longer the agony and dreadful worry caused through pain and fear that your varicose vein may burst, when a means so simple, so natural, so harmless, and inexpensive is now available. Elasto also cures **Piles** (Blind, Bleeding and External), **Varicocele, Prolapsus, Hard Swellings, Swollen Glands, Swollen Joints from Rheumatism, and all Relaxed Conditions,** because the cause is the same—a want of elastic fibre in the system. It seems too good to be true, but just read what Mr. C. Whitton, Holbeach, S. John's, Lincolnshire, writes:—

"My veins were swollen as thick as my little finger and I was afraid they would burst, but, thanks to Elasto, they are now quite well."

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Gardenrath: Another Nail in

An Objectionable Objection—Resolutions for 1925—The French

THE disqualification of Gardenrath, first past the post for the Laleham Handicap Steeplechase at Hurst Park, owing to the fact that Major Doyle, who trained the mare before she was sold to Mr. Waring, had failed to sign a necessary document, was referred to in several of the daily papers as "an unfortunate incident."

Major Doyle, the late trainer of Gardenrath.

In the circumstances, "unfortunate" was a mild adjective to use, and if I were a member of the Committee to whom the local stewards referred the matter, I should not act leniently.

The result of the whole affair was that backers of Gardenrath, who should have drawn, lost. It would not please them very much to see the race awarded to Hawker, Major Doyle's mount.

Stop Technical Objections.

It is quite time that steps were taken to put a stop to technical objections. A Supervisor of Entries would meet the case, and he could also be made responsible for seeing that all sales are properly effected within a given period. Gardenrath was sold at Sandown Park on December 6. The race the mare lost in the objection room took place a fortnight later.

Two Farcical Affairs.

Technical objections are constantly cropping up. Some are farcical, others scandalous. I remember the absurd affair of Cloudbank. The Manchester November Handcap winner captured a tin-pot event in September and lost it on the grounds that he was not qualified to run. The September race was for horses who had not won an event above a certain value. Cloudbank had annexed an event in France which, owing to the rate of exchange, made him ineligible for the English race.

A Hectic Sensation.

Another event I have in mind occurred a few years ago. The beast which caused the sensation was named Hectic. On the morning of the race the *Sporting Life* stated that Hectic had won a race of a certain value and was not qualified to run. In spite of this announcement, Hectic not only faced the starter, but was made a good second favourite and won. He was automatically disqualified by the stewards.

Their Resolutions for 1925.

If you give me your attention I to show you will contrive
Resolves of leading racing men for Nineteen Twenty-Five.

The Tipster's a philanthropist—on New Year's Eve he swore
To sell his Ten Pound Three Star Wires for sixpence as of yore!

The Punter is an optimist, and very sad his case is:
He has resolved to find the "goods" for all the classic races!

The Bookie is a pessimist, be sorry for his plight.
He thinks next year that money (like his waistcoat) will be tight!

The Trainers have resolved, in spite of other folks' objections,
That horses shall continue in "surprising their connections"!

The Jockeys have resolved to free their honour from all doubt
By never betting—or, at least, by never being found out!

And Silver Ring, who does his best to make your racing pay,
Is going to make much cash for you by coding Two-a-Day!

The French Way With Doping.

I see G. W. Lawrence, an English trainer in France, has been deprived of his licence and fined under conditions that emphasise the stern justice meted out in France where "doping" is proved. It was established that the one-time English horse, Holbeach, had been tampered with, and though it is clear that the trainer was otherwise engaged at the time and could not have been a party to the "doping," the rule is inexorable in France that a trainer must be held accountable for anything happening to the horse under his care.

Jockey Snatching.

W. Lister is one of the British jockeys recently "signed on" for service in France, and I now learn that Gardner, who rode for Lord Derby's stable until Weston came along, is transferring his attention to France in future, first claim on his services being secured by Claude Halsey, who trains for J. D. Cohn.

That Dead 'Un.

Palm Oil, the dead horse, is still in the bookmakers' lists of probable entries for the Grand National. I suppose they must like the sound of his name.

Gloaming's Amazing Record.

I mentioned recently that New Zealand is sending their crack racer, Gloaming, to compete in races over here. A few readers have asked me for further particulars of the horse. Gloaming is an aged horse, eleven years old. He has won fifty-nine races out of sixty-eight and has never been out of the first three. Some racer.

Betting Stewards.

The Jockey Club still continues its interrogation of jockeys in regard to betting, and three more leading flat race men have been carpeted recently. If action is taken, all to the good, but why stop at jockeys? What about the stewards who bet? Often they are called on to determine a dispute regarding a horse in which they may be interested financially. It is not in human nature to have the judicial temperament in such circumstances.

How to Ride Winners.

Ivan Parke is America's leading jockey for 1924, having ridden just over 200 winners out of 800 odd mounts. I think this is an excellent record, but F. B. Rees has beaten it. Flat racing takes place all the year round in America. When it winds up in the North, the jockeys journey to the South and get on with the job.

Why They Want to Change the

SELECTIONS FOR JANUARY 10

ENGLISH CUP.

HOME WINNERS.

*Blackpool, *Leicester C., *Aston V., Swansea, *Derby Co., *Swindon, West Ham, *West Bromwich, Birmingham, *Notts F., Sheffield U., Liverpool, Crystal Palace, Millwall, Bolton W., *Blackburn R., *Cardiff C., Southampton, *Newcastle, *Spurs, Queen's Park R., Everton.

AWAY WINNERS.

*Notts County, Portsmouth.

DRAWS.

*Hull C. v. Wolverhampton W., *Wednesday v. Manchester U., Bradford v. Middlesbrough, Preston N.E. v. Manchester C., Doncaster R. v. Norwich C., *Bury v. Sunderland, *Watford v. Brighton, Bristol v. Bristol C.

THE LEAGUE—DIVISION III. (Southern).

DRAW.—Aberdare v. Newport.

THE LEAGUE—DIVISION III. (Northern).

HOME WINNERS.

Chesterfield, Grimsby, *New Brighton.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE.

HOME WINNERS.

Celtic, Cowdenbeath, Hamilton A., Hearts, Queen's Park, St. Johnstone.

AWAY WINNER.—Rangers.

DRAWS.

*Falkirk v. Hibernians, *Kilmarnock v. Dundee, *Partick T. v. Airdrieonians.

(For coupon purposes, nap selections are marked with an asterisk.)

TWO or three matches have already been fixed up in which the proposed changes in the offside rule are to be tried out, but it strikes me that more than these will be necessary before any real agreement is arrived at.

I have talked on the matter to directors, managers and players, and their opinions are just about divided.

One section favours one of the proposed changes, a second the other alteration of the offside rule, while the third thinks it should be left alone.

And the Press is similarly split up in its views.

What is Proposed.

One proposed alteration in the rules is that a player cannot be offside when forty yards from the opposing goal; the other that two and not three players must separate him from the goal when the ball was last played.

Both are drastic, the second much more so than the first, and if either is adopted there is going to be a real revolution in the game.

All the present accepted methods of attack and defence will either become obsolete or have to be revised, and for this reason there is no small opposition to any alteration in the rule.

Readers of JOHN BULL who regularly follow the game are well aware why one of the most important items in football legislation which for years has been thoroughly satisfactory is threatened with the upheaval.

Farcical Tactics.

Since the war the one-back game has been exploited to such an extent that half the League games nowadays are reduced to farcical tactics, and the popularity of the game is decreasing weekly.

The man who pays his shilling week after week is not getting his money's worth. He is beginning to realise it, and so are the controlling bodies.

It is all very well to accuse full-backs of running away from the ball and not playing it—which, of course, they do when they rush up the field and put the attack offside.

And it is all very well to accuse modern forwards of not being clever enough to circumvent defensive tactics.

But you have to realise that full-backs who play the one-back game can legally do so, and that not ten per cent. of the so-called first-class forwards can sufficiently control the ball so as to go through on their own.

the Punter's Coffin

Way with Doping—Jockey Snatching

PADDOCK PARS.

My tip for the New Year Steeplechase at Manchester is Black Abbott. This event sounds important, but it is only worth 150 sovereigns.

* * *

Fortunately the Victory Steeplechase on the same day is a one thousand pounder. Ganzey may win this.

* * *

I saw J. H. Thomas at Sandown Park recently. He seemed to like the jumping game.

* * *

Frank Hartigan is in the South of France, but don't overlook his horse, Brixton, first time out. Brixton could go on the flat.

JUMPERS TO FOLLOW.

Troika.—A little each way on Stevens' two-mile selling hurdler for his next engagement should show a profit. The five-year-old is a bad-tempered beast, but he is a good jumper. Last time out the gelding ran second to the hot-pot Saxham Prince.

High Court.—Frank Wootton thought his mount, High Court, was very unlucky not to beat Scotch Pearl at Hurst. The three-year-old blundered at the last jump.

Musteline.—Willie Nightingall will win with this three-year-old in due course. The youngster is a good each-way proposition every time he runs.

Hong Kong.—H. Turner now has charge of the son of China Cock, and he is certain to score with him early in the new year. Many good judges thought the five-year-old was unlucky to be beaten by Lindholm at Lingfield. Hong Kong is entered for the Victory Hurdle at Manchester.

Scottish Archer.—Peacock's horses seldom come South, but they more than hold their own in the North. He trains a useful two-mile 'chaser in Scottish Archer. The ten-year-old should never be allowed to run loose.

Azimuth.—Piggott will win a two-mile hurdle event with "rookie" before long.

Ganzey.—This Irish-trained horse may go for the Victory Steeplechase at Manchester, and he stands an excellent chance at the weights. He beat a similar type of field cleverly at Nottingham, a few weeks ago.

Crock Hill.—Speck, on Crock Hill, was beaten by the wonderful riding of Duller on Confirmation last time out. You will not lose money if you follow Crock Hill, each way.

Tutankhamen.—J. M. Bell, who trained the champion hurdler, Trespasser, has only two or three horses in his stable at the present moment and Tutankhamen is one of them. I have kept an eye on the three-year-old, and I am certain he will turn up trumps before long, particularly if Duller rides.

"SILVER RING."

THIS WEEK'S SELECTIONS

Newbury, Wednesday,
GLANMORE, FELTHAM HILL.

Manchester, Thursday,
GANZEY, BLACK ABBOTT.

Manchester, Friday,
HONG KONG, VAULX.

Plumpton, Saturday,
LINDHOLM, UNCERTAIN.

"JOHN BULL'S" CODE.

Two coded selections will be given daily in the following papers:—
Sporting Life and Sportsman, Sporting Chronicle, Sporting Pink, Western Mail, Glasgow Noon Record, Birmingham Mail, Irish Independent.

A 2 E S R C L 3 O H J T K I

X W Q V P M U Y B G N Z F D

How to read the code:—In place of the letters or figures advertised in the daily papers read those above or below the line, as the case may be. XTDCLZG would read AZIMUTH.

This code will be changed in next week's JOHN BULL. It covers the racing from December 31 to Jan. 6.

Off-Side Rule

Our Proposal for a Big Try-out.

cing Facts.

We know what might be and what ght to be, but the Football Associations the various countries have facts to e, and they are going to do it.

It may be that the games in which the posed changes are tried out will lead the adoption of one or the other.

But as the matter will not come up ore the International Board for some e I should like to see a big test of the new suggested phases of offside ween the best players of England and tland at the end of the season.

urely this could easily be arranged by English and Scottish F.A.s. The yers could be well-paid for their ices, and the balance of what would big gate given to charity.

First Round.

ext week the first round of the lish Cup will monopolise interest, use the Scots do not commence their onal competition until a fortnight .

Scottish Clash.

e Rangers, who have little to beat e first round of the Scottish Cup, not, despite their League honours e meantime, won the Cup since so they will be keener than ever time.

Evidently there is a difference between League and Cup football in England as well as in Scotland!

The League clashes between Celtic and the Rangers are, of course, the tit-bits of the Scottish season, and there will be all the old enthusiasm at Ibrox Park on New Year's Day, even if the Rangers this season have been much more successful than their old rivals.

English League Tangle.

Owing to the holidays and early press arrangements, I am not this week able to discuss what effect the Christmas games had on the English League.

But if there is going to be the same weekly struggle for top place as there has been lately, there will be some excitement over the end-of-the-season games.

WEEK-END COUPS.

Coups for matches this week-end are:—

7 HOME.—Chelsea, Manchester U., Swansea, Watford, New Brighton, Rangers, Hibernians.

5 HOME.—West Bromwich, Manchester U., Swansea, Watford, Rangers.

3 AWAY.—Bolton W., Plymouth A., Bradford.

3 DRAWS.—Birmingham v. Sunderland, Middlesbrough v. Leicester, Millwall v. Brighton.

3 HOME, 2 AWAY.—Manchester U. Swansea, Rangers; Bolton W., Swindon.

1 HOME, 1 AWAY, 1 DRAW.—Hibernians; Plymouth A.; Ayr U. v. Hearts.

WIN £15 a Week for Life!

£15 a week or £10,000 cash down is the first prize in the great new Ballot inaugurated by the "Daily Mail" for the dual purpose of helping the Voluntary Hospitals and finding out which are the most popular of the 16 Benefits in their new Insurance Scheme.

The whole of the £25,000 Prize Money has been unreservedly guaranteed by the "Daily Mail," who have made this big list of prizes possible in order to get a quick response and make it worth everybody's while to enter.

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£2,000

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£1,000

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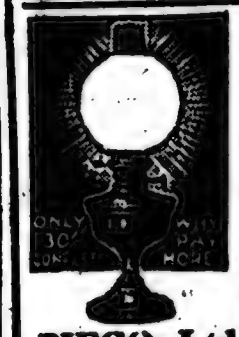

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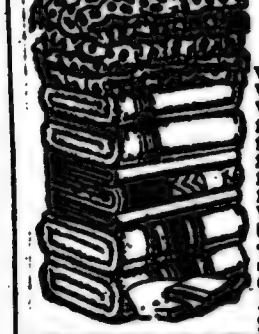

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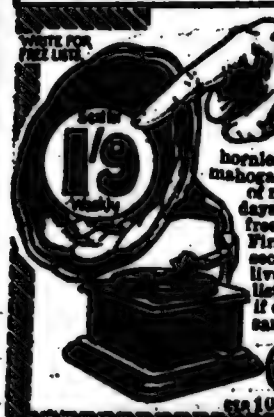

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Our Letter Parliament

Are Women Finished at 40?

Our Readers Air their Views on This and Other Subjects

Brief to-the-point letters not exceeding 100 words are invited; 5s. is paid for each letter published. Name and address essential not necessarily for publication. Envelopes must be marked "Letter Parliament."

Rot and Reality.

I agree with "Pollie," that romance is dead at forty in a woman, but, if single, she is better able to enjoy life than she ever was. She can take care of herself, knowing the pitfalls and avoiding them, and if of a cheerful disposition can always make nice friends—of both sexes. It should be the best part of life, after silly romance is dead. When we read novels we older people know romance is rot, and not true to life, but real happiness can be found at forty.—*Jessie, Bristol.*

Not "Done For."

"Pollie's" letter has made me inclined to look up dates to assure myself that no mistake has been made of perhaps ten years in my life, for at forty I feel that life is just beginning to fill with charm and romance. Women of forty should have a much broader outlook on life and be happier in consequence. I feel anything but "done for." *Love*, the real substantial article, just establishes itself at this time of life, if you have found the right partner.—*M. Bond.*

Joy of Maturity.

Your reader who suggests that women generally "are no use" after they are forty is hopelessly at sea. True, that first fine bloom of youth has gone, but there are many compensations. Women's sphere of usefulness increases as she grows older! If she is a mother there is the wonderful joy of moulding her children's characters, of developing their manliness. And by that time also her love for her husband has developed into an understanding that mere passion can never give.—*Victor Heal, Edinburgh.*

Young Butterflies.

I know of many happy marriages in middle-life, some of them second marriages. Their first misguided union taught them to choose more wisely the second time. Years of sorrow, suffering and hardships make a woman love and appreciate the right man (if he comes along) all the more. At forty, certainly, a woman has not the same chance, for a middle-aged man seems to pass by the woman nearer his age, and he chooses the butterflies, little knowing that he is missing the substance for the shadow.—*A Widow, Camlington.*

Middle-age Love.

Women at forty have grown to realise that the "romance" of the novelists is a thing that doesn't exist in real life and that passionate love soon grows cold as years go by. By that time they have seen through their husbands, and know all their weaknesses. There is little illusion left in life. For a brief spell the old desires of life may flare up, but they are quickly quenched, and only in household duties, etc., can woman feel that she is doing something useful.—"*One of Them.*"

Best Time in Life.

"Pollie" is surely not serious when she suggests that the woman of forty is "done for," in so far that life no longer holds any romance or charm for her. Many women at forty are at the most attractive period of their lives, experience and the necessary exercise of reason which it brings, giving them a charm peculiarly their own. When, as often happens, so late in life they meet a kindred spirit, the love kindled then burns more strongly and fiercely than any that youth can know. Romance, age and tragedy, though well hidden, play a big part in middle age.—*M. M., Rochdale.*

Still Going Strong!

I am nearly fifty and hope to enjoy living a long time yet. I was housekeeper and "mother" to five brothers and sister at the age of fourteen. And now I am a real mother of eight children. I get tired after a hard day, but my husband has only to mention the "pictures" and I am ready very soon—and we have to go four miles to them. I have had far more enjoyment the last ten years than all my life.—*Nil Desperandum.*

A Woman's Soul.

In answer to "A Gentleman with a Duster," a *real* woman does not sell her soul for what the world gives. What is more beautiful than a happy home and loving husband, and the touch of baby fingers, the moulding of character, and putting the foot of a child on the right path? Surely, a real woman has her reward. My motto is "the joy of doing your best brings its own reward."—*Mrs. Harding, Manchester.*

Better Brains.

Industry is being hampered by men holding positions for which they are incompetent. Instead of Trade Unions wasting their funds on strikes, why not create correspondence schools through which men could train? Let employers recognise such and set the tests, so that the men would know what was required of them. Such co-operation would bring forward the best brains of the country to the benefit of employers and employees.—*A. S., Blackburn.*

Painless Childbirth.

Your correspondent seems to regard painless childbirth as an authentic fact. Childbirth, although natural, will never be painless. Anæsthetics and modern surgery are to a certain extent counterbalanced by our more sensitive minds and our being physically weaker than our ancestors.—*John Lauder, St. Boswells.*

Printers' Pie

(Half-a-crown is paid to the sender of every item published. Mark envelopes "Pie.")

"WOKING NEWS & MAIL":—Witness had a wife and SIX CHILDREN, whose ages ranged from 14 DAYS TO SIX MONTHS."

"WOMEN'S FRIEND":—"Three children's NOSES pressed against the window-pane WATCHED HIM with wistful eyes."

"PICTORIAL MAGAZINE":—"At MIDNIGHT the air cleared, though the gale raged. A pale SUN SHONE."

"MODEL ENGINEER & ELECTRICIAN":—"She is ENTIRELY BUILT of ELM, the keel and stem being OAK and the stern in TEAK."

"YORKSHIRE TELEGRAPH & STAR":—"An assistant heard the report of the window being smashed, and saw accused running away and being followed by a crowd. ACCUSED had been SMASHED BY A BRICK wrapped in paper."

"DAILY CHRONICLE":—"The carved figure of a BULL found in Babylonia, minus legs, ARMS and tail, has also been added to the collection."

White and Yellow.

While Mrs. Ah Soo (whose tragic story you have told) has my sympathy, I really think she brought her troubles on herself. For my own part, I would simply ignore any strange man who spoke to me in the street, even if he were white, and as for a yellow man, I would put a policeman on his track. I would prefer to marry a poor white man, rather than the richest and best Chinese in existence.—"*All White.*"

The Clean Mind.

Leonore Van Der Veer has done a service to the muddled intelligence of those who, by reading so much that is conflicting, are unable to get a reasoned line of thought on the subject of birth-control. "The Passionate Husband" was written by one with a clean and broad mind. Never were truer words spoken than "A happy marriage is founded within the soul, not the senses." Marriage is a sacrament, not legalised lust; birth-control is the road to marital ruin.—*Happily Married.*

Sunday Garbage.

The certain way to the big plums of journalism is, it would appear, not ability, but to live a life which will serve up as a spicy story for certain Sunday newspapers. God help the editorial mind which justifies the payment of big money for dirt by the plea of giving the public what they want! Is it not time these servers-up of the dregs and scum of life should be taught the meaning of clean journalism?—*J. G. A.*

Childish Faith.

A reader, "Cabus Neuk," said recently Santa Claus should be abolished. I say no—a thousand times. The highest and the lowest little child has faith in the wonderful "Santa" who comes without fail once a year to fill their stockings. I wonder if "Cabus Neuk" has ever seen a lot of children going to bed on Christmas Eve, talking of the wonderful things "Santa" is going to bring them—even calling up the chimney at the last moment to tell him to bring some little present they had forgotten. I have seen all these things, and have filled stockings year after year.—*Mrs. E. Smith, Birkdale, Lancs.*

Eve in Business.

A good deal of nonsense is talked about women in business, and the suggestion that very many girls take up office work who are "only fit for domestic service" is manifestly absurd. To run a house and prepare meals efficiently and economically in these days of high prices requires keener thought and intelligence and a better general knowledge than the more or less monotonous routine of the average commercial office. The majority of girls enter the ranks of the business worker because they feel they are not fitted for home duties—*not* because they consider themselves superior to them.—*M. M.*

Broken Dreams.

Major Foot's scheme to put the unemployed on the land is that of an idealist and of no more practical value than the ideas of Prince Kropotkin in "Fields, Factories and Workshops." We have thousands of ex-service men on the land, put there by a grateful Government. Terrific rents and rates make their positions desperate, and the majority are much worse off than the unemployed. This, presumably, being the best that the nation can do for men whose careers and health were ruined by the war, what chance would any other scheme have if on similar lines and lacking the [illegible] sentimental stimulus?—"*Ex-service Man.*"

This Book Bridges the Gap

between you & a Beautiful Home

Charming Sideboard carried out in oak and polished a rich antique brown, fitted with 2 drawers and 2 cupboards. Right-hand drawer lined green baize and fitted for cutlery.

4 ft. ... £7 17 6
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Special Discounts:
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No interest added.

IN the beautifully-illustrated pages of this splendid Catalogue from the Midland Galleries you will find the solution of every one of your furnishing problems. What to get and how to obtain immediate delivery with only a small initial outlay.

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You get £100 worth of furniture for £10 down. 50/- monthly for the balance. Larger or smaller amounts in proportion.

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To look through this book of beautiful illustrations will make you long to visit our 3 acres of Galleries and Showrooms. But if you cannot come yourself, you may order by post from the Catalogue with perfect confidence.

(Settee opened out for use as a bed.) Size 6' 3" by 4' 6"

Convertible Bed-Settee

(New and Improved Model.)

Patent Convertible Settee, constructed of solid oak, polished a rich antique brown, upholstered any colour corduroy velvet, *fitted with wire spring mattress and large box under for accommodation of bed-linen.* This Settee can be converted (with one simple movement) into a double bedstead

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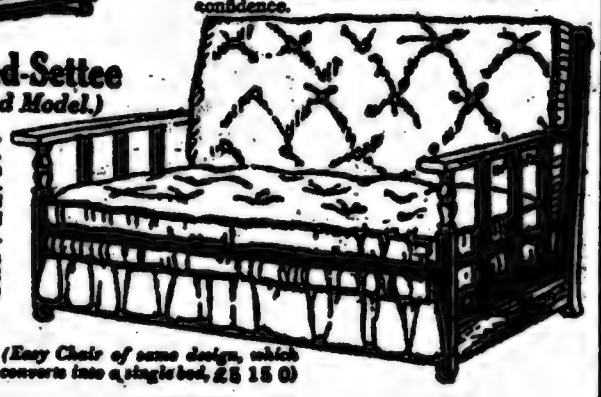

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BAD WEATHER

Throat & Chest Dangers Kept At Bay

THIS weather is just the type that gives coughs and colds to the strong as well as to the weak-chested. Epidemics of throat and of chest ailments, many of them infectious, are also about. To safeguard yourself against these perils take the chest-strengthening Peps tablets.

When you dissolve a Peps in your mouth, the powerful medicinal fumes given off are inhaled with the breath. These fumes have a soothing, healing and fortifying influence on the entire breathing system.

Soreness, irritation and inflammation in chest or air-passages is promptly allayed by the Peps medicine. Mischievous 'cold' or influenza germs infesting the delicate membrane are swiftly destroyed, and vital inner parts (far beyond the reach of any liquid medicine) are thoroughly safeguarded.

Whenever you leave home, office or works, slip a Peps into your mouth to head off cold and chill dangers. If your throat feels sore, your head stuffy, or you start to sneeze, remember a timely dose of Peps nips trouble in the bud and averts dangerous complications.

Old folk whose chests are torn and hacked by the exhausting cough of bronchitis find wonderful comfort and strength in Peps. Give the children Peps to suck when starting out for school, and again at bedtime.

Sold in sealed boxes by all chemists. The registered name "PEPS" on the box and stamped on each silver-jacketed tablet.

The 1/3 size contains 35 Peps tablets. 3/- size 105 Peps tablets.

Refuse worthless substitutes and cheap medicated sweets which have no real curative value.

PEPS

For COUGHS, COLDS & BRONCHITIS

A GIFT WORTH 25/-

World's Record Insurance Gift Renewed for 1925

"JOHN BULL'S" Great Free Insurance Scheme has once more proved itself in the year that has passed to be the most practical, the most beneficial and the most comprehensive Free Insurance Gift in the world. It enters upon 1925 unchallenged, and proud in its supreme position. We are happy to inform our readers that the generous Benefits will be extended during the New Year.

So practical, generous and comprehensive are the Benefits offered that they would actually cost you at least 25/- per annum if taken out through an Insurance Company.

Throughout 1924 our Great Free Gift has emerged triumphant. The Fire Fiend has stalked abroad, reducing many of our readers' homes to ashes; some of the worst storms within living memory have lashed the country with their fury; floods have devastated large areas; sickness has striken down the fit and unfit alike; accidents—many fatal—have been unusually heavy.

In answer to the applications for Benefits that have come pouring in, thousands of families have been relieved of privation and want. To-day, on the threshold of the New Year, "John Bull" points with pride to the fact that over 14,000 readers have benefited under its Great Free Insurance Gift.

The keynote to the tremendous popularity and smooth working of the "John Bull" Free Insurance Gift lies in the fact that "John Bull" conducts its own payments. There is no third party in the form of an Insurance Company searching for technical flaws—just sympathetic consideration followed by prompt payment.

"*I am sure no Big Premium Insurance Company could have treated me better,*" says Mr. W. G. Coggins, 2, Lorne Road, Ramsgate, a recent recipient of a Benefit.

What About YOU?

You never know when your turn may come next. A stray spark may set your home ablaze; storms or floods may do enormous damage; sickness may strike you down without warning; an accident incapacitate you for work. Why risk it when "John Bull" covers you free. Turn to the forms on page 30 and sign now.

for EVERY JOHN BULL READER

What "John Bull" Gives

FIRE.

£400—against loss by fire to the reader's household furniture or personal effects

£1,000—in case of death of husband and wife directly due to injuries caused by an outbreak of fire at the registered reader's home.

£500—in case of death of one under similar circumstances.

£250—or £125 in respect of each for loss of one limb or eye under similar circumstances.

£2 PER WEEK maximum rent during reinstatement (not exceeding 26 weeks).

ACCIDENTS IN HOME AND GARDEN.

The undermentioned benefits all apply to the husband or wife of the registered reader —

£250—loss of life.

£250—loss of two limbs or both eyes, or one limb and one eye.

£125—loss of one limb or one eye.

£3 PER WEEK up to 4 weeks for total disablement providing it involves fracture of a limb or skull.

HOUSEHOLD BENEFITS.

£300—loss caused by storm, tempest, or flood to the registered reader's household furniture or personal effects.

£300—loss caused by lightning, thunderbolt, or earthquake.

£100—loss by explosion of gas or domestic boilers.

£100—loss by bursting of hot-water pipes or heating apparatus.

£300—loss caused by aeroplanes, airships, or other aerial craft.

£300—loss by damage by riots or civil commotion.

£1,000—in case of death of husband and wife (permanently residing together) by violence caused by burglars or housebreakers entering for the purpose of robbery.

£500—if one is killed under similar circumstances.

£500—or £250 in respect of each for loss of one limb or eye under similar circumstances.

£10—Medical Fees for injuries by violence caused by burglars, housebreakers or fire.

£6 PER WEEK for both or £3 per week for either up to 4 weeks, for disablement caused by burglars, housebreakers or fire.

SICKNESS BENEFITS.

The undermentioned benefits all apply to the husband or wife of the registered reader —

£5 5s.—for total disablement by illness consequent upon Diphtheria, Measles, Smallpox, Typhoid Fever, Typhus Fever, Cerebro-spinal Fever (or "Spotted Fever"), Anthrax, and Tetanus (or Lockjaw). These benefits are only applicable to readers between the ages of 16 and 65, who have been registered for twenty-one days prior to the illness manifesting itself

SPORTS.

£250—in case of death if the registered reader be killed accidentally while playing—

Football, Tennis.
Cricket, Hockey.
Golf, Lacrosse.

as an amateur on a recognised playing ground.

£3 PER WEEK up to 4 weeks for total disablement providing it involves fracture of a limb or skull.

BOATING AND BATHING.

£250—if the reader be accidentally drowned while as a pastime boating on, or bathing in the sea at any seaside resort, or in any river or public swimming bath, providing that the reader be not a professional swimmer or boatman, and that in case of boating, the boat be not a passenger steamer.

Conditions

(a) This scheme applies only to persons over ten and under seventy years of age residing in and property situated in Great Britain, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, but excepting Ireland so far as benefits under the riot clause, providing that any Registered Reader over 70 years of age shall be entitled to all the benefits of this gift except those in respect of death, disablement or sickness.

(b) A Registered Reader shall mean any person registered with JOHN BULL as having personally signed and forwarded to JOHN BULL Insurance Registration Department the prescribed registration form, and given a signed order to a Newsagent for the regular and uninterrupted weekly delivery of JOHN BULL.

(c) Applications for benefit in respect of any one accident or event, which must be confined to one of the benefits, must be forwarded in writing as to accident benefits within seven days and household benefits within forty-eight hours and sickness benefits within fourteen days of the illness manifesting itself—Medical Certificates and or other evidence in support of the application must be furnished by the Registered Reader at his own expense.

(d) As to the injury benefits, this scheme applies only to bodily injury directly and immediately caused by violent external or visible means which is the sole cause of death, loss or disablement as defined, and no sum will be given in respect of any injury, fatal or otherwise, happening while the Reader is in a fit or arising from or traceable to intentional self-injury, suicide, insanity, or intemperance, or whilst in an unconscious state. A fractured limb shall mean a fracture of the arm or leg above the wrist or ankle.

(e) Loss of a limb means the loss by physical separation of a hand or foot above the wrist or ankle.

(f) Death or loss of limb or sight must result within thirty days after the accident and as a direct and sole result of the injury. In the event of death, benefits will be paid to the husband or wife of the Registered Reader, or dependent children, if any.

(g) No benefits will be given in respect of fire unless the fire is one which is reported on by a Fire Brigade or Police Officer, and compensation for material damage will be made subject to any rights which the applicant may have or acquire under any Insurance Scheme, Company, or otherwise and the Proprietors of JOHN BULL shall give no benefit until the Registered Reader has exhausted his or her remedies under any such insurance, money in cash, or otherwise excluded.

(h) To become recipient of rent benefit the Registered Reader must either be responsible for and furnish proof of amount of rent, or be beneficial owner, and furnish proof of net rateable assessment which shall be deemed as rent.

(i) Disablement applies where the reader is totally unable to follow his or her usual employment.

(j) The fire and household benefits apply to the Registered Reader's household furniture or personal effects in his or her private dwelling-house, apartments, or dwelling-rooms attached to business premises of the Registered Reader at the address registered, but not to business premises or stock-in-trade.

(k) Benefit shall not be payable under this Scheme for any accident arising out of, or in the course of, the Registered Reader's employment.

(l) In case of change of address and/or change of Newsagent a fresh coupon must be forwarded for registration otherwise no benefits will be allowed; and the Proprietors may at any time discontinue or make any amendments to this offer by the publication of a notice in JOHN BULL.

(m) In order to comply with the requirements of the law the Proprietors of JOHN BULL have to announce that while this Free Insurance Scheme does not involve any contractual liability it has the financial backing and support of Odhams Press Limited (the Proprietors of JOHN BULL) whose issued share capital is over £1,000,000.

(n) The husband or wife of a Registered Reader permanently residing with him or her shall be deemed to be a Registered Reader for the purpose of those benefits which are applicable.

IMPORTANT.

All registered readers should cut out this page and affix it to their Registration Certificates, as the benefits and conditions here set out are those now in force in connection with our Free Insurance Gift.

READERS REGISTERED SINCE MAY, 1922, ARE QUALIFIED UNDER THESE CONDITIONS AND SHOULD NOT RE-REGISTER, unless since registering they have changed their address or their newsagent. Those who have not yet registered should do so, using the forms on page 30.

Registration Forms on page 30.

John Bull's Letter Bag

THE Editor may be flippant on this page, but his humour is kindly and never malicious, and he wants you to see it in this light. He likes to end up the week's work on a bright note and take his leave with a smile. Serious questions are handled by the expert staff of our Free Advice Service. See note at top of last column this page.

A. M. (Horsham).—"What would you call a real tragedy?" A comedy that doesn't pay.

V. S. (Coventry).—"My business is now under completely new management." Married again?

K. S. (Sandgate).—"My face is the only fortune I possess." Well, it's no crime to be poor.

T. B. (Chatham).—"I'm completely wrapped up in my work." Then you won't feel the cold.

G. F. (Daventry).—"I don't see how generosity can ever be undesirable." Oh, yes, giving yourself away.

E. T. (Hockley).—"Lots of women are brilliant musicians." But no woman can really play second fiddle.

N. R. (Lyndhurst).—"In my opinion there's nothing wrong with flappers." Just what all the flappers say.

D. B. (Wigan).—"My friends all refuse to help me financially." You've certainly got some very close friends.

T. M. (Dunstable).—"It's much better to be contented than to be wealthy." Sure! People can't borrow from you.

R. S. (Chertsey).—"Someday I trust my dreams will come true." The quickest way to make dreams come true is to wake up.

H. P. (Ongar).—"The marriage laws are severe upon a woman." But they are not so severe as the by-laws of the in-laws for the man.

F. H. (Aylesbury).—"I have had a poem printed anonymously." That's not fair. Think of the many people who will be suspected.

A. P. (W.C. 1).—"My friends are under the impression that I am a literary genius." Then why not tell the truth and shame the drivel?

L. C. M. (Highbury).—"Young men and women are practically the same." In fact, since shingling set in, the latter are more like the former than the former are themselves.

WM. T. (Bury).—"Can you put me on to an infallible racing system?" Yes—make a list of the selections of six papers, burn it, and keep your money in your pocket.

"CONTENT" (Lanark).—"The gifts they gave me make up for all the young men I once had." You believe, apparently, in looking after the present and letting the past take care of itself.

N. R. (Douglas).—"I once lost a situation because I refused to marry my employer." We assume that by now both you and your affections are engaged elsewhere.

N. R. (Barnstaple).—"Life is short." And so are most of the people who live it.

J. L. T. (Kensington).—"He is a persistent climber into high society." So is the cat burglar.

G. T. (Hatfield).—"Most modern girls are frightfully highbrow." And frightfully low-necked.

L. B. T. (Southampton).—"America takes a lot of interest in this country." And collects a lot *from* it.

F. D. (Lewes).—"You can usually tell a married woman." Always provided you can get her to listen to you.

R. V. D. (Tamworth).—"Children take after their parents." Well-behaved children do. The others take before.

B. J. S. (Ipswich).—"Even the boy who breaks the school laws has to face his master." In our time the reverse was true.

C. B. S. (Topsham).—"I reckon my letter will make you laugh!" Then your arithmetic would appear to be as bad as your humour.

M. M. D. (Finchley).—"Our maid is now going out with the baker's man." So long as she doesn't come home with the milk, why worry?

A. C. (Swindon).—"I have just received a letter posted to me five years ago." Dear, dear! The writer might just as well have telephoned.

F. S. (Rawtenstall).—"Should one sleep for eight hours on end?" One should sleep for eight hours, but lying down is the more usual position.

F. S. E. (Selby).—"The food question is of first-class importance." We hope that Parliament will soon see that the food in question is also first-class.

B. R. (Yeovil).—"The question of food prices needs an authority on economics." Not forgetting the housewife—*the* authority on economical measures.

R. M. (Wickford).—"I dreamt that I was digging and found some silver. What does it mean?" Probably you found the threepenny bit in your portion of Christmas pudding.

Miss. M. (Harlesden).—"I have had about twenty hobbies since I was a girl and got tired of them all." You gave us a dreadful start then. We thought for the moment you had written "hubbies."

L. B. (Crewe).—"I've no mind to write at further length." We suspected that.

L. G. (Harlesden).—"I'm learning to play the bagpipes." Why not try to be neighbourly instead?

D. L. (Henley).—"And the day will come when this country will dry up." Go thou and do likewise.

J. L. (Sevenoaks).—"Ironing is a dreadfully monotonous job." It must be just one damp thing after another.

R. T. (Newbury).—"The least noise wakes me up at night." What a wonderful night-watchman you'd make.

S. E. (Cheltenham).—"I've got a corn on the sole of my foot." Well, at any rate no one can stand on it except yourself.

D. W. (Balham).—"You *do* know you have a hat on when you wear a bowler." Possibly that's because a bowler's always felt.

H. M. (Birmingham).—"Many M.P.s were fired with enthusiasm during the election." And still more would-be M.P.s were fired with enthusiasm on polling day.

M. M. (Midhurst).—"I understand Henry Ford is going to visit England." We shall have to think out a perfectly new story in honour of the occasion.

T. K. (Maidenhead).—"What is more pleasant than the scent of burning garden rubbish?" It's all right as long as people don't wrap it up and call it cigars.

R. B. (Hastings).—"'Win a *Bullets* £250' is the first of my New Year resolutions." Improve on it by capturing one of *Bullets* "Double-Firsts," starting next week.

N. H. (Henley).—"Before I was married my husband called me all sorts of nice names, and now he doesn't call me anything." What wonderful self-control.

J. T. (Harrow).—"I gave my son a very good clockwork train, with rails and signals, for Christmas." By about March, we suppose, you'll let him have a turn at playing with it.

L. T. (Mortlake).—"I saw a Russian dancer in a music-hall the other day who seemed to lean on the air." The performer is helped, of course, by the fact that smoking is allowed in the auditorium.

"JOHN BULL'S" GREAT GIFT OFFER

Special 15 Days' Extension.

2/6 "Everpointed" Pencil FREE—and—your name engraved on Pen FREE!

Presentation Coupon

"John Bull" Pen Dept., Long Acre, London, W.C. 2.

Please send me the Christmas Gift Set, containing the "John Bull" 5/- Lever Filler Pen and FREE 2/6 "Everpointed" Pencil in Gold Presentation Box. Engrave the following name (or initials) on Pen:

.....

(Write in CAPITALS name or initials you wish engraved.)

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

I enclose Cheque P.O. for 5/6 (including postage, insurance and clip). Cross "& Co." and make payable to "John Bull." State if fine, medium, broad nib. J.B. 3.1.25.

START the new year well! Let one of your resolutions for the coming twelve months be: Away with worry!

There's no need to go through life with a furrowed brow and a perpetual frown.

If you are in doubt about *anything*—write to JOHN BULL about it. Our wonderful Free Advice Service answers questions on every subject under the sun.

It doesn't matter what your problem is—Law, Love, Business, Babies, Pensions, Partnerships, Sport, Sex, etc., we have a specialist to deal with it.

Enclose a stamped addressed envelope, and a confidential reply will be sent you through the post.

What's troubling you? Write to JOHN BULL about it!

S. W. (Marylebone).—"Shake!" We refuse! We stand firm!

L. N. V. (Mitcham).—"I couldn't help thinking the man had been drinking." And to make matters worse, you inform us in verse.

L. M. (Ayr).—"The postman must swear at the load of letters he brings you." He shouldn't. He hasn't got to read them.

D. T. (Beaconsfield).—"The time has come when we should do away with paper money." Sounds like putting us on our metal.

N. E. (Romsey).—"Is it true that jumpers are becoming fashionable again?" Certainly; didn't you know the flat season was over?

H. E. (Redditch).—"All the members of my family are terribly noisy." Tell them that, to be sound, one need not necessarily make it.

R. K. J. (Leeds).—"The slowness of London traffic costs the City thousands of pounds." Possibly because it's always being held up by coppers.

M. H. (Epping).—"Everyone's got lots of blessings if they care to recognise them." The trouble is many of them are so awfully well disguised.

T. J. (Pleasley).—"I read her letter breaking off our engagement when I was in bed." No doubt she reckoned you would take it lying down.

L. T. C. (Canterbury).—"Laughter will kill anything." You try the effect of a burst of merriment on a moth.

"MUSICIAN" (Harrogate).—"Half the population is infected by jazz-mania." But the complaint is much more painful for those who haven't got it.

G. A. E. (Mansfield).—"Bolshevism is a milestone in political evolution." Right if taken up instead of being left behind it soon proves to be a millstone.

A. A. (Malmesbury).—"You'll *never* get things right way up unless you cease to frown." Then let's get hold of frowning folk and turn 'em upside down!

W. R. J. (Westcliff-on-Sea).—"I have a quarter of an hour's walk every morning in order to catch my train." Clearly you're living beyond your station.

B. T. (Walworth).—"I'm happy on £2 a week, so why waste breath grousing?" Good! You make the most of it, to say the least of it.

F. W. (Iffley).—"I have had a bother this year over the matter of Christmas presents." We suspect you left the ticket on the one you gave your wife.

(Many replies unavoidably held over.)

Start a Business of Your own in spare Time

Let us Show You the Way to increase income in 1925

Read what those who took this advice in the past say Now

A special representative of "John Bull" has inspected the originals of these further testimonials reproduced in this advertisement and certifies they are genuine:

Albany Street, London, N.W.
22.8.24.

Dear Sirs,

As you will see by the enclosed pamphlet, I have got well away with a small side-line, which up to the present is proving very profitable. I must say I myself am surprised at the short time it took since I received your first lesson, and therefore I have no doubt you can understand my gratitude towards you and your system of Mail Order Trading.

St. Omer, France.

Dear Sir,

I am finding your course most interesting and instructive. It is business-like and to the point, and at the same time contains a mine of valuable information not only to those in business but also intending to launch forth at a future date. I am more than satisfied.

Newbury, Berks.
14th Dec., 1924.

Dear Sir,

I think it is only right that I should tell you how glad I am that I started your M.O. Course. I have now been trading 12 weeks with a very fair amount of success, as the approximate nett profits amount to nearly 200% on the actual outlay for commencement. You can use this testimonial for any purpose which you may think necessary as I am quite convinced that if any fellow is thinking of starting business for himself, it is your course alone which can help him along the road to success.

Basingstoke, Hants.
27.10.24.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your letter of the 24th inst. I must say that I am extremely pleased at my decision of taking up your Course of Mail Order. Although I only started actively this morning, I have got twenty-one prospective clients already and I am confident of getting a good many more in the next few days.

Southampton Row, London.

Dear Sirs,

As you are aware, I was not a novice in business matters when I enrolled with you, but I have been pleasantly surprised to discover the immense wealth of information and new ideas which you embody in the course.

You too Can Make Extra Money—Send Now for FREE Booklet

HOW often have you wished to have a business of your own? A business, even a small one, to fall back upon if the worst comes to the worst, is the best insurance policy you can possess. ***Here is your Chance.*** Fill in the Coupon below and post it at once, when by return you will receive a Free Booklet telling you how to start a Business of your own.

For instance, Mail Order has immense possibilities and the expenses are so small that this method of doing business is far more profitable than any other. One of its chief attractions is that you can commence at home in your spare time, or from a small office without giving up any present employment. To start requires very little outlay. Stocks can be purchased as the orders come along, and overhead charges are practically nil. Compare such a small expense with that of a Shop or Works, which calls for considerable capital for Stock, Staff, Machinery, Rent, etc.

In Business the great thing is to know how to proceed. The Booklet "BY POST TO PROSPERITY" tells in plain words how business by mail can be started on small capital in spare time at home; how to sell economically and effectively; how £5 can be made the basis of independence; and other valuable information.

The Shaw Institute invites you to investigate now, without obligation. Experience is not necessary, and it makes no difference in what locality you live. Your stock-in-trade need not consist of more than a small supply of goods, and a few printed letters. With but a pound or two capital, and devoting only a little of your leisure hours to the work, you can build a big and lucrative business which may enable you to give up ill-paid and uncongenial employment. Devote spare time to your own thriving concern, in the same way as hundreds of Shaw Students are doing to-day.

Send Coupon at once, and investigate for yourself.

Send No Money—Post Coupon

Here is an unrivalled opportunity to get on the road that leads to success and independence. The field is practically unlimited, and the Shaw Institute contends that no matter where you live or what your position, providing you are ambitious, a scheme can be outlined to meet your special requirements.

Apply to-day—you will never regret it. By writing you place yourself under no obligation

COUPON FOR FREE BOOKLET

To the Secretary,
The Shaw Institute (Dept. J.B.91), 1, Montague Street, London, W.C. 1.

Please send me FREE and Post Free, your brochure "By Post to Prosperity," and other literature showing how I can start a spare or wholetime business at home, and how £5 can be made the basis of independence.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

J.B. 3.1.25.

THE GREATEST BARGAIN IN THE COUNTRY

A Personal Paragraph to the Reader of this Advertisement.

The famous SARTOR Raincoat is deservedly popular. Reasons why are not hard to find. The price is right—the quality is right. But for the enormous demand, and the fact that we are the actual Manufacturers selling direct to the Public, your SARTOR would cost you very much more than 20/-

A WONDERFUL RAINCOAT OFFER THAT IS BEATING ALL RECORDS.

SARTOR 20/- RAINCOATS

Carr. Paid in British Isles

We prepared for a rush, and it's well we did. From all parts of the U.K. orders and inquiries have been pouring in. The Public have been quick to realise what a wonderful offer it is—a SARTOR RAINCOAT, perfectly tailored by experts from a fully-proofed gabardine, with yarns, cosy, check lining, at 20/-. Each garment is made with individual care. If the demand is maintained you can secure a SARTOR for 20/-, but see to it at once.

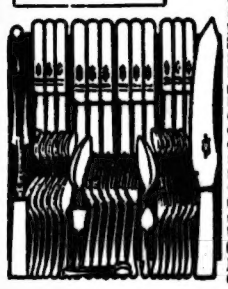
SEND FOR FREE PATTERNS, Style Book (Ladies', Gent's, Maids' and Youths'), and accurate self-measurement form.
SEND NO MONEY. Get the patterns first and judge the value for yourself.
OUR GUARANTEE goes with every coat sold. If you are not satisfied send the coat back and we will refund your money in full. Write:—

SARTOR MANUFACTURING CO.
(Dept. J.), 82, Oxford Rd., MANCHESTER.
Visit our London Showrooms,
220, Tottenham Court Rd., W.1 (*First Floor*).

Made throughout in our own Manufactory & quality fully guaranteed.

GRAVES 'FIFTY'

50 PIECES, 50 SHILLINGS.



1 pr Double Shear Steel Carvers, Ivorette handles, 6 Stainless Steel Table Knives and 6 Stainless Steel Dessert Knives, Ivory grained handles, 2 Table Spns, 6 Dessert Spns, 6 Tea Spns, 6 Egg Spns, 6 Table Forks, 6 Dessert Forks, 1 Sugar Spn, 1 pr Sugar Tngs, 1 Jam Spoon, 1 Salt Spoon, all warranted to wear white throughout. Terms: 5/- now, 5/- monthly. Money back if at all disappointed.

5/- NOW

Catalogue Post Free
J. G. Graves Ltd. Sheffield

Be Lucky!

Tens of thousands of persons are firm believers in "luck." The possession of a mascot or "talisman" does seem to break a spell of bad luck and start the sun of prosperity shining again. The "JU-JU" MASCOT—a replica of the Nigerian God of Luck—is already a firm favourite, the chosen talisman of thousands.

Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. Hundreds of unsolicited testimonials. Get your JU-JU Now.

Sterling Silver, 5/- } Post
9ct. Gold, £1 } free.

JU-JU SOCIETY (Dept. J.B.)
Imperial Buildings, Westgate Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Also from Gamage's, London.

Skin Irritation

Quick Relief from Itching Rashes.

Distress caused by rashes, eruptions, eczema, pimples and rough or tender skin is at once soothed by Germolene, the Aseptic Skin Dressing.

Mr. Dellow's Statement.

Mr. Philip Dellow, of 19, Holyoak Road, Newington Butts, London, S.E., writes as follows: "For some years I have been troubled with a distressing rash upon my back. I have tried numerous ointments and other remedies, but none of them did me any good. I was eventually advised by a friend to try Germolene, and before I had used the first tin there was a remarkable difference, and as I continued the treatment the rash completely disappeared, and my skin is once again quite healthy. I should like everybody to know how Germolene has benefited me."

SOOTHES AT A TOUCH.

HOME PRICES: 1/3 *and* 3/-

Of all Chemists throughout the Empire.

Use Germolene for

Eczema, Rashes, Ulcers, Piles, Itching, Cuts and Burns, Skin Eruptions, Ringworm, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, and all Itching or Ulcerated Surfaces.

AWARDED GOLD MEDALS AT FOUR LEADING INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS.

Germolene

The Aseptic Skin Dressing

A "Ninth" for Happiness

The Best New Year Resolution

LIKE so many things that are mysterious and inscrutable, the legend of the magic of the "Ninth" comes out of the East, where it is believed that the gift of a ninth part of one's possessions to the poor will confer blessings on the donor.

The story runs that an aged Indian philosopher who was held in great regard in the thirteenth century was visited by a young nobleman in search of advice as to how he could avert an evil spell which seemed to have been cast upon him and threatened to rob him of his rich inheritance.

The old man said, "My son, you complain of your bad fortune. All your works come to nothing. Return to your home, and give a ninth of what is in your purse to the poor man at your gate. Much or little, it matters not. So shall you prosper."

We can only tell the tale as it was told to us. Many readers have adopted our suggestion that they should give a ninth of their spending money to "The Greatest of These—" Fund and have written to tell us of wonderful good fortune that has unexpectedly befallen them soon afterwards.

Start the New Year well by sending us a ninth of your "spending money." JOHN BULL gladly pays all the expenses of running the Fund.

Owing to space pressure on "Greatest of These" acknowledgments have been held over.

"BULLETS" Prize-winners of One Guinea—(*Continued from page 31*)

Bury, Lancs; F. Groves, Station Rd., Kintbury, Berks; F. E. Guy, 65, Hannan Rd., Liverpool; A. Hasgott, Maltravers St., Arundel; H. E. Hawkins, 90, Newsstead Rd., Gabalfa, Cardiff; E. Hay, 48, India St., Edinburgh; J. P. Heal, 38, Greenway Av. Taunton; J. Hislop, 449, Gt. Eastern Rd., Parkhead, Glasgow; W. Holliday, 28, Commercial Rd., Guildford; A. E. Holt, 53, Lansdowne Rd., Tidal Basin, London, E.; G. Hopper, 45, Lindisfarne Terr., North Shields; A. E. Humphreys, 19, Birkbeck Pl., West Dulwich, S.E.; H. A. Jackson, 53, Gosforth Rd., Southport; J. James, 7, Hedwig St., Whit La., Pendleton, M/c.; Rev. S. R. Kersley, Congham Rectory, King's Lynn; Mrs. A. E. King, 66, Rowfant Rd., London, S.W.; R. H. Lace, 19, Parkfield Drive, Wallasey; S. W. Leaver, 190, Manor Grove, Richmond, Surrey; S. Lee, The Bungalow, Frenchay, Bristol; Miss G. Lewis, Stradey, Llanelly, S. Wales; E. Lewis, 6, North Parade, Bath; Mrs. H. Lingwood, 4, Winchester Rd., Ilford; A. H. Livingstone, 9, Bembridge Pl., Reading; G. Luckham, 20, St. John's Rd., Exeter; Mrs. H. Lycett, 60, Heber Rd., E. Dulwich, S.E.; A. G. Lynch, 2, Dene St. Gdns., Dorking; W. McGregor, c/o Devonshire Rd. Hospital, Barrow-in-Furness; A. Moore, c/o "Waterloo House," North Walsham, Norfolk; J. H. Morison, 1, Chesser Grove, Edinburgh; Mrs. M. Morton, 9, Lower St., Tettenhall, Wolverhampton; Miss L. Munday, "Carolla," Warsash, Southampton; F. L. Pearson, 14, Nelson Pl., Stirling; W. J. Phair, 48, Hampstead Rd., London, N.W.; W. H. Powell, 21, Westmoreland St., Harpurhey, M/c.; J. Ralft, 6, St. Clement St., Aberdeen; C. Reeves, 55, South End, Croydon; F. P. Reid, "Mullacy Cottage," Claremont Lane, Esher; J. W. Richards, Wilton House, Cross St., Camborne, Cornwall; A. Ridgway, 7, Cooper St., Hazel Grove, Ches.; Mrs. E. Roby, 44, Albany Rd., Cardiff; G. O. Rubie, "Elmwood," Dunfield Rd., Derby; B. Rudd, 4, Oxford Grove, Ilfracombe; W. D. Scott, 39, Provost Rd., Dundee; H. Self, 20, Cobden St., Wednesbury; R. Severs, 68, Maryon Rd., London, S.E.; J. Shepherd, 55, The Exchange, Kirkdale, Sydenham, S.E.; W. Skates, Chawton, Alton, Hants; Miss E. Smith, Oakfield, Fortrose, N.B.; W. H. Smith, 64, Bushway, Chadwell Heath, Essex; D. Smith, Lockton, Pickering, Yorks; E. T. Spriggs, Newton, nr. Rugby; W. Stevenson, 117, Main St., Lumphinnans, Fife, N.B.; F. Stubbins, 434, Windmill Lane, Shiregreen, Sheffield; C. Tamkin, 25, Asmuns Hill, Golders Green, N.W.; J. A. Thompson, 40, Rock Rd., Cambridge; J. Thomson, 3, Holford Rd., Hampstead, N.W.; Mrs. Tucker, Ford, Ash Mill, Barnstaple, Devon; E. Tucker, 64, Juxon St., Oxford; J. H. Turner, 2, Sunny Bank, Queen's Rd., Crowborough; A. Wallace, Mossastle Rd., Slamannan, N.B.; H. Watson, Thorpe Bassett, Rillington, Malton, Yorks; A. B. Wheeler, c/o 1, Cotleigh Rd., West Hampstead; W. B. Whitelaw, 24, Melrose Gdns., Glasgow; Mrs. L. Wicks, 178, Dalmally Rd., Addiscombe, Surrey; Mrs. E. Wilson, 3, London Terr., Alderley Edge, M/c.; Mrs. E. Woodbridge, 181, Ock St., Abingdon, Berks.

List of Five-shilling Prize-winners in "Bullets" Competition No. 544 will be published in this week's "Competitors' Journal." Complete list of Cash and other Prize-winners can be seen at the office of "John Bull."

SPECIAL NEWSAGENTS' PRIZES.—Cheques for £5, £2 and £1 respectively will be paid to the Newsagents from whom the winners of the three chief "Bullets" Prizes in Competition No. 547 have purchased their copies of "John Bull."

"BULLETS" RULES.

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what in the opinion of the judges in consultation with the Editor is the best Bullet received, and the other prizes in order of merit, the test being cleverness, aptness and originality.

2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.

3. All four coupons may be used and a postal order enclosed at the rate of 6d. for each coupon made use of, which must be made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed /and Co./ Competitors must write their names and addresses and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Coupons must not be mutilated.

4. All coupons arriving too late to be judged with absolute thoroughness will be duly returned.

5. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet received shall have careful consideration by a competent staff of qualified judges.

6. The Editor's decision on any matter of dispute arising in connection with this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

Employees of Odhams Press are not eligible to compete.

Registration Forms (see pages 26 and 27).

CUT HERE.

POST THIS COUPON TO "JOHN BULL."

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY.

To "John Bull" Registration Department, Long Acre, London, W.C.2 I have sent an order form to my newsagent for the regular weekly delivery of JOHN BULL. Please register me as a regular reader,

Reader's Name in full ..... Age.....
(CAPITAL LETTERS.)

Address .....

Reader's Signature .....

Name and Address of Newsagent .....

Date.....

Use ½d. stamp. Don't send envelope. A certificate setting out the full benefits and conditions and certifying registration will be sent on receipt of ½d. stamped addressed envelope.

J.B. 3/1/25.

CUT HERE. HAND THIS COUPON TO YOUR NEWSAGENT.

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY.

To (Name of Newsagent) .....

Address .....

Please deliver or reserve JOHN BULL for me weekly until further notice,

Signature.....

Address .....

Date.....

J.B. 3/1/25.

RESULT OF "BULLETS" No. 544.

FIRST PRIZE OF 1,500 Guineas:
Mrs. S. ROBERTSON,
North Place, Old Headington, nr. Oxford.
Example:—HEART OF THE EMPIRE
Bullet:—"JUMPS" WHEN PRINCE DOES.

SECOND PRIZE OF 250 Guineas:
J. WALES, 24 [illegible] Street, Holbeck, Leeds.
Example:—SENSIBLE WIFE
Bullet:—"NOT TO MENTION" MOTHER.

THIRD PRIZE OF 100 Guineas:
H. KNIGHT, High Street, Heath Hadham, Herts.
Example:—MODERN ROBBER
Bullet:—POLICE "UP SPOUT" ALSO.

FOURTH PRIZE OF 50 Guineas:
H. E. SCOTT, 14, Edinburgh Street, Plaistow, Essex Road, Stratford.
Example:—WHAT IS A HUSBAND?
Bullet:—FAMILY BUTT—AND BUTTRESS.

FIFTH PRIZE OF 25 Guineas:
E. G. HERRING, Emerson Club, 14, St. George Street, S.W.1.
Example:—TO-MORROW
Bullet:—YOUTH'S CRYSTAL—AGE'S HOUR-GLASS.

10 Prizes of 5 Guineas:
Griffin, Hope Cottage, Wood Terrace, Monkton, Jarrow-on-Tyne.
BEFORE THE FIRE—PURCHASED PETROL—AFTERWARDS, CAR.
H. Hall, 50, Parkhurst Road, Tottenham, N.
KISSING—ANIMALS, UNNECESSARY—SO'S KICKING.
G. Harris, 20, Salem Street, Russell Street, Portsmouth.
WHAT SOLLY SAID—"VAT, *Steel* HOUSES? RIDICULOUS!"
J. Harrop, 98, Crosby Street, Stockport.
LIKE PRISON—UNTIL CUPID ENTERED OFFICE.
G. Leman, 26, Cranmer Street, Nottingham.
GLUTTON FOR WORK—NATURE—NOT HUMAN NATURE.
Meaken, 92, Norwich Street, Cambridge.
OPPORTUNITY'S KNOCK—NOW HERE—TO-MORROW NOWHERE.
F. Poll, Ringshall, Nr. Stowmarket.
OPPORTUNITY'S KNOCK—BUT FATE IS DOORKEEPER.
A. Sanderson, 64, Regent Street, Lancaster.
PROGRESS!—YESTERDAY'S GOAL—TO-MORROW'S STARTING-POINT.
J. Sharp, 425, London Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.
WHEN A BOY—FASHIONABLE GIRL'S AMBITION SATISFIED.
(Entered on "Target" Prize coupon.)
Uffill, White Hurworth, Wingate, Durham.
GLUTTON FOR WORK—SO USEFUL, NEVER PROMOTED.

10 Prizes of 4 Guineas:
ARTHUR, 61, Hunslet Road, Leeds.
BEST—METHOD, MEDICINE *And* FAITH.
Bird, 9, Andrews Close, Portfields, Hereford.
BRIGHT IDEA—GETTING SHEIK AS SHOP-WALKER.
Brady, 16, Cargill Street, Belfast.
BUT IS A HUSBAND?—"ESCORT" AND PRISONER," COMBINED.
Cashmore, 29, Cathedral Road, Cardiff.
CHIL MARRIED—"MASTERPIECE"—THEN "POTBOILER."
Edwards, 82, Black Street, Glasgow.
KISSING—THROUGH BARRIER, JOCK'S GOOD-BYE.
(Entered on "Target" Prize coupon.)
Wythorne, 86, Unity Street, Sittingbourne, Kent.
BUT SOLLY SAID—ABSENT-MINDEDLY—"PLATFORM TICKET TO——"
Lacey, 63, Paradise Street, West Bromwich.
NO NAME—WRONGED, WHEN WRONGDOER UNNAMED.
Lie, 2, Beatrice Avenue, Norbury, London, S.W.
WITH ENQUIRING INTO—PRICE OF "TRAFFIC IN."
Mast, 15, De Freville Avenue, Cambridge.
NEW GOVERNMENT—MOST EXTRAORDINARY IT GOVERNS.
Thomas, 20, Friars Road, Newport, Mon.
THE WIND BLOWS—DECIDES COMMUNIST LITERATURE'S HOME.

30 Prizes of 3 Guineas:
Allen, 43, Snells Park, Edmonton, N.; Miss Anson, 31, Heath St., Golborne, Warrington; Bradley, 20, High St., Coatham, Redcar; Britcher, 21, Trinity Rd., Gillingham; Mrs. Brown, 11, Hinton Rd., Gloucester; A. Clark, Chepstow St., Strood, Kent; A. Davies, Penycoed Llendre Rd., Pantyffynnon, S. Wales; J. Davies, Islwyn Rd., Wattsville, Cross Keys, Mon.; Flanden, 1, Watling Terr., Wilks Hill, Quebec, Canada; J. L. Holden, 14, Wild Rd., Norwich; Jones, 2, Warrad's Court, London, S.W.; S. B. Jones, 6, Comrie Cres., Exeter; F. Roberts, 213, Walton Rd., Liverpool; Mrs. C. Seaborne, King's Langoed, S. Wales; A. H. Smitherman, Lonsdale Rd., Tunbridge Wells; Mrs. F. Starr, 7, Market Hard; F. Suckling, 150, Clements Rd., East Ham; Mrs. R. Todd, 7, Stoddart Av., Bitterne, Southampton; W. Ward, 79, Coningham Rd., Shepherd's Bush, W.; E. Wheeler, Gas Works Cottage, Hill, London, S.W.; Mrs. G. Simpson, 1, St. James's St., Halifax; G. D. Smith, 53, Jedburgh St., Clapham Common, S.W.; Mrs. A. B. Stokes, 39, Liscard Rd., Wavertree, L'pool; Miss E. Watkins, "Five Acres," nr. Coleford, Glos.; F. Wilkinson, 14, Norton Rd., Stockton-on-Tees; M. Wilkinson, 54, Cromwell Rd., Blackpool; E. Williams, 25, Evan St., Kenfig Hill, Glam.

100 Prizes of 1 Guinea:
T. Allensby, 25, Victoria St., Ely, Cambs; B. W. Anderson, "Moorlands," Woldingham, Surrey; Mrs. P. H. Arnold, 37, Belmore Rd., Eastbourne; J. Ashton, 78, Dartmouth Park Hill, London, N.; A. G. Barker, "Unaleigh," Winchmore Hill, N.; Mrs. E. Belrue, Fernville, Lismore, co. Waterford; P. A. Binder, 39, Mount Rd., Wimbledon Park, S.W.; F. J. Boardman, 44, Kingsley Rd., Wallasey, Ches.; W. H. Bourn, 6, Gorsebrook Villas, Bushbury, Wolverhampton; E. W. Branford, Brundall, nr. Norwich; E. Britton, 98, Nag's Head Hill, St. George, Bristol; W. Broad, 16, Stirling St., Doncaster; Miss S. Butterworth, High St., Uppermill, Oldham (Two prizes of £1 1s.); J. S. Chappell, High St., Ogmore Vale, Glam.; F. H. Chapman, 22, Westfield Lane, Mansfield; W. Coombes, 35, Knollys Rd., Streatham, S.W.; B. G. Curtis, "Craythorne," Grayham Rd., New Malden, Surrey; F. H. Davey, 78, St. Michael's Rd., Aldershot; W. Davison, "Fron Dawel," Marine Drive, Llandudno; F. Dawson, 2, Westbourne Sq., London, W.; L. Dawson, 63, Junction Rd., Sheffield; J. Duncombe, "Seafield," Byron Rd., Worthing; W. G. East, 203, Cross Rd., Coventry; J. Fennell, 8, Langton Rd., Litherland, L'pool.; A. Fitton, 45, Benton Way, Wallsend-on-Tyne; A. Foster, 110, Maynard Rd., Walthamstow, E.; H. France, 3, College Rd., Camberley, Surrey; Mrs. E. George, Berry Cottages, Exminster, nr. Exeter; W. George, 113, Roundway, Tottenham, N.; W. R. Gibling, 40, Festus St., Nottingham; Mrs. G. Gilbey, 21, Rochester Rd., Camden Town, N.W.; T. B. Glover, Londonderry, Bedale, Yorks; Mrs. E. L. Goff, 68, Stroud Green Rd., Finsbury Park, N.; L. Greenwood, 459, Jericho.

(*Continued on page*).

(*Continued in next column*).

EXAMPLES FOR "BULLETS" No. 547.

STILL IN FASHION
WITHOUT WATER
MAKING THINGS EASIER
THIRD PARTY
WITH OPEN ARMS
SPARE PARTS
PAYING HER DEBTS
UPSETTING BUSINESS
MAKES ME START
MISCHIEF AFOOT
BUYING A HOUSE
FIRST AID
BOX OF CHOCOLATES
NO NEED TO EXPLAIN
PAID BY RESULTS
BROKEN TOY
BANGING THE DOOR
FOR A CHANGE
IN DAYLIGHT
WHAT HUBBY ANSWERED
SILLY IDEA
WITH A SNIFF
POWERFUL WEAPON
INSULTING
ENOUGH FOR EVERYBODY
A DULL TIME
BEAUTY
IN OUR STREET
WONDERFUL WOMAN
IF ANYBODY'S LOOKING
TIME TO SHUT UP
WHAT IS A BORE?

HOW TO MAKE "BULLETS" — NO LETTER RESTRICTIONS.

Choose any of the *Examples* printed; then give any Two, Three, or Four Words having some bearing on the *Examples* chosen, each of which can begin with any letter in the alphabet. These specimens will guide you:—

Example:—WINSTON CHURCHILL *Bullet*:—PAST-MASTER PAST CAN'T MASTER.
Example:—WHAT THE PRISONER SAID *Bullet*:—"IN—ON TWELVE VOTES!"
Example:—THE CAUSE *Bullet*:—OF ROWDYISM, TRUTH UNANSWERABLE.

ENCLOSE A POSTAL ORDER AT THE RATE OF 6d. FOR EACH COUPON USED.

Address coupons to "Bullets" No. 547, John Bull, Long Acre, London, W.C.2.

Example _____ Closing Date, Thursday, January 8.
Bullet _____
Example _____
Bullet _____
(547) P.O. No. _____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on page 30. With 1 Coupon, send P.O. for 6d.
Signed _____
Address _____

Example _____ Closing Date, Thursday, January 8.
Bullet _____
Example _____
Bullet _____
(547) P.O. No. _____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on page 30 With 2 Coupons, send P.O. for 1s.
Signed _____
Address _____

Example _____ Closing Date, Thursday, January 8.
Bullet _____
Example _____
Bullet _____
(547) P.O. No. _____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on page 30. With 3 Coupons send P.O. for 1s. 6d.
Signed _____
Address _____

Example _____ Closing Date, Thursday, January 8.
Bullet _____
Example _____
Bullet _____
(547) P.O. No. _____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on page 30. With 4 Coupons, send P.O. for 2s.
Signed _____
Address _____

☞ If you desire to send in further "Bullets" you can write them on plain paper

SELECTION OF EXAMPLES FOR "BULLETS" COMPETITION No. 548.

SIGN OF THE TIMES—BIG BABY—TO A MAN—WHAT SHE BELIEVES—DANGEROUS—FAMILY SKELETON—SONNY'S FUTURE—MONEY FOR JAM—LATEST PUZZLE—IN REAL LIFE—HER IDEAL—TIT FOR TAT—SCIENCE—MORE AT HOME—WHAT THE PEDESTRIAN SAID—CURIOUS CHAP—AT PRE-WAR PRICE—SHOWING FATHER—WITHOUT A GIRL—WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

These Examples can be made use of on the Coupons on this page, and must reach us on or before **THURSDAY, JANUARY 15.** All Coupons so used **MUST** be marked clearly with the number **548** in the top left-hand corner, and envelopes containing these Coupons must be addressed "Bullets" No. **548**, JOHN BULL, Long Acre, London, W.C. 2. Such Coupons must not contain any of the Examples for Competition No. **547.**

ONE-WEEK "DOUBLE-FIRSTS" *Starting NEXT WEEK!*

A Short Series of 'Bullets' Offers with a First Prize of £500

Free Yourself of Rupture Without Pain, Operation or Loss of Time.

FOR the benefit of our readers we take pleasure in publishing the Brooks offer to save all who are ruptured from wearing trusses and other painful makeshifts that do not cure.

The Brooks Appliance Co., Ltd., gladly sends this remarkable Appliance ON TRIAL to prove that it holds the rupture back, keeps it in place, prevents it coming down or slipping out, and finally cures it entirely.

NO man or woman ever can look and feel his or her best while suffering the torment, pain, and discomfort of rupture.

Every day that you suffer from rupture—every hour of truss torture that you endure—after you read this page *is your own fault.*

For many years we have been telling you that no truss will ever help you. We have told you about the harm trusses are doing. We have told you that the only truly comfortable, sanitary and scientific device for holding rupture is the Brooks Rupture Appliance.

Now we offer to prove it to you entirely at our risk. We will send you a Brooks Rupture Appliance *on trial.* If you really want to be rid of your rupture, fill out the coupon below and mail it to-day.

Instead of wearing a steel spring or inflexible harness, try the *velvet soft* Brooks Appliance.

Instead of the hard pad of a truss, use the *soft rubber automatic air-cushion* of a Brooks Appliance.

The Brooks Appliance clings to you without force, and you are hardly conscious of its presence. And above all else it **HOLDS always.**

Within an hour after you receive the Brooks Appliance, if you take advantage of this remarkable trial offer, you will throw away your truss for ever.

Over 253,000 People have Accepted this Offer. Why not You?

Doesn't that prove that the Brooks Appliance is not an experiment but a positive success—that it does all we claim for it? Among these 253,000 men, women and children, there must be *hundreds whose condition was identical with yours.* Can you afford not to investigate and satisfy yourself when it costs you nothing to prove what the Brooks Appliance will do for *you*?

From a photograph of Mr. C. E. Brooks, inventor of the Appliance, who cured himself of rupture over 30 years ago, and patented the Appliance from his personal experience. If ruptured, write to-day to Brooks Appliance Co., Ltd., 80, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2.

This wonderful device is a triumph of scientific and mechanical genius, the result of more than 30 years' experience, and the percentage of cures effected by its use is little short of miraculous. Many hundreds of physicians and surgeons recommend the Brooks Appliance and condemn trusses as more harmful and dangerous than any other method of retaining and treating rupture. Thousands of people have written us to testify to the amazing results they have secured from this great invention. Many of these people live in your vicinity, and we will be glad to send you copies of their thankful letters if you will ask for them when you write.

Men, Women and Children Find the Brooks Appliance Equally Effective.

No matter if your rupture is old and severe or only recently developed, no matter if you are young or old, you should not fail to profit by this **No-risk Trial Offer.**

No other rupture support, truss, device, pad, or plaster is offered to the public under so broad a guarantee of satisfaction. If for any reason whatever you do not wish to keep the Brooks Appliance after you try it, send it back. You do not have to give any reason. There will be no question or quibble. There will be no argument, no dispute or misunderstanding.

Ten Reasons Why You Should Accept this Offer.

1. It is absolutely the only Appliance embodying the principles that inventors have sought after for years.
2. The Appliance for retaining the rupture cannot be thrown out of position.
3. Being an air-cushion of soft rubber, it clings closely to the body, yet never blisters or causes irritation.
4. Unlike ordinary so-called pads, it is not cumbersome or ungainly.
5. It is supple, soft, and pliable, and positively cannot be detected through the clothing.
6. The soft, pliable bands do not give a harness.
7. Nothing to get foul; it can be washed without any injury.
8. There are no metal springs in the Appliance to torture one by cutting and bruising the flesh.
9. All materials are the very best that money can buy, making it a durable and safe Appliance to wear.
10. Our reputation is so thoroughly established, and our prices so reasonable, our terms so fair, that you should not hesitate to send the free coupon *TO-DAY.*

Free Information Coupon.

Brooks Appliance Company, Ltd.
(1761H) 80, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2

Without cost or obligation on my part, please send me by post, in plain wrapper, your illustrated Book and full information about your Appliance for the cure of rupture, and your trial offer.

Name .....

Address .....

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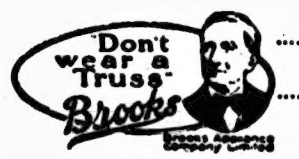

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Please write plainly.

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